

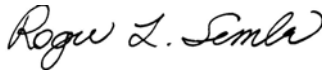
SMITH RIVER STATE PARK ANNUAL REPORT 2006



A comprehensive summary of management activities, visitor use statistics, and social and resource conditions on the Smith River corridor during the 2006 field season

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Date: November 27, 2006



2006 SMITH RIVER REPORT TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>Section</u>	<u>Page</u>
INTRODUCTION.....	3
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	3
SMITH RIVER MAP	4
MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES	
Administration	5
Staffing	5
2006 Budget.....	6
Fee Revenue.....	6-7
Corridor Enhancement Account	7
Administrative Floats	7
Volunteer Activity	8
Education and Outreach	8
Projects Completed	9
Management Actions	9-10
VISITOR USE STATISTICS	
Private Launch Applications.....	10-11
First Time Floater Private Permit Holders	11
Floater Registration.....	11-12
Floater Logs	12
Floater Log Comment Summary	12-21
Landowner Day Floats	22
Landowner Non-Immediate Family Day Floats	22
Fee Waived Floats	22
Private Floats	22
Commercially Outfitted Floats	22
Commercial Shuttle Services	23
Boat Camp Ownership & Administration.....	23
Boat Camp Overnight Use	23-24
Smith River Use Statistics by Month	25-26
Smith River Trends Statistics (1993-2006)	27-28
Smith River Daily Log Statistics	29-33
RESOURCE AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS	
River Flows	34
Resource Impacts	35
Noxious Weed Control	35-36
Management Plan Use Indicators and Standards.....	36-37
Compliance	38
Incident Summary	38-39
REFERENCE MATERIALS	40

SECTION 1 - INTRODUCTION

The Parks Division of Montana, Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) manages recreational floating along a 59-mile segment of the Smith River from Camp Baker to Eden Bridge as part of Smith River State Park. The Smith River is the only river in Montana where a permit is required for both public and commercial use. Management of the river corridor is conducted through an interagency partnership between Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) and the United State Forest Service (USFS). Approximately 80% of the land along the river corridor is in private ownership, with the other 20% publicly owned.

The Smith River float is extremely popular during a short season with an average of 3,777 people floating the river per year. The Smith River is unique in that it has only one public put-in and one public take-out for the entire 59-mile segment of river. The river is noted for its spectacular scenery and blue-ribbon trout fishery.

This report is compiled from data gathered during the 2006 float season (April through October 2006) for the Smith River program. Statistical and observational information was gathered from state park staff and recreational floaters .

SECTION 2 - EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A record-number 4,578 private launch applications were received for the 2006 float season, a 17.8% increase from the applications received in 2005. A total of 582 private groups floated the Smith River involving 3,894 individual floaters, as compared to the 14-year average of private use of 526 groups, with 3,136 people.

The 10 authorized commercial outfitters conducted a total of 52 trips involving 638 floaters (including both clients and guides), as compared to the 14-year average of outfitted use of 49 groups per year with 563 people.

Of particular importance is the fact that two of the three Management Plan indicator standards were out of compliance in 2006. The indicators out of compliance included 1) the number of floaters in the canyon at one time and 2) the average group size.

The 2006 float season was the 2nd highest use season on record, with a total of 4736 floaters. Total floater use in 2006 was just slightly behind 1997 which incidentally, was an above average water year with unusually high cfs flows allowing use into late summer and through most of the Fall of 1997.

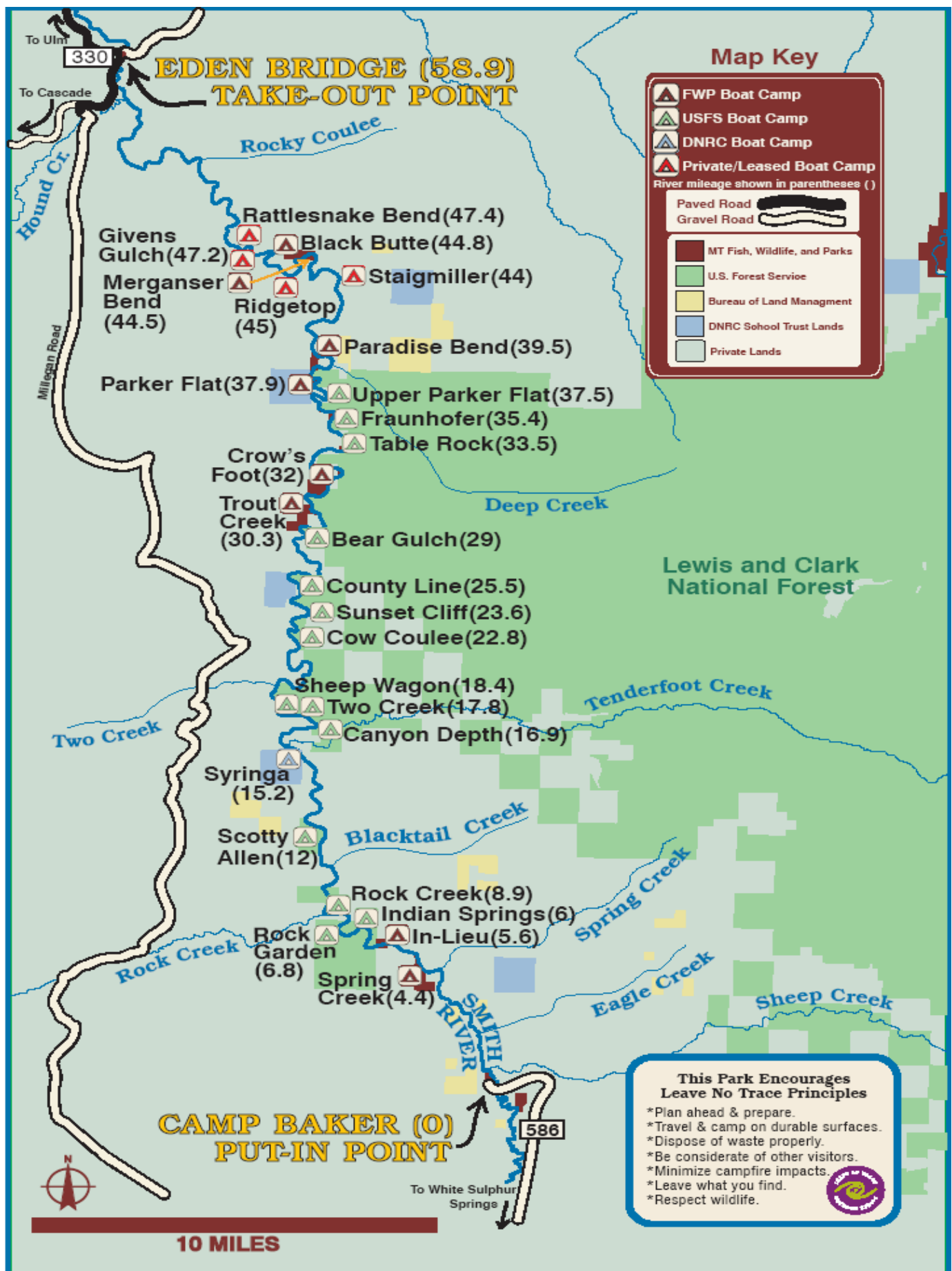
The average number of floaters per group (7.03) tied for the 2nd highest on record. The average number of floaters per group has continued to increase showing an upward trend over the past 14 seasons.

For the 2nd year in a row, the month of April experienced a record number of floaters, with a total of 427 floaters, up from 405 floaters in 2005. Floater use during the spring shoulder-season of April is also experiencing an upward trend in use.

The 2006 public safety record on the Smith River was excellent, with no serious accidents or injuries reported. A complete summary of incidents reported on the river is provided on pages 38-39.

Based on the visitor floater log feedback, visitor satisfaction and enjoyment of the recreational resources and management of the river corridor continued to be very positive. These are strong indications that the Smith River continues to offer one of Montana's premier recreational opportunities.

SECTION 3 – SMITH RIVER AREA MAP



SECTION 4 - MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Administration

The Parks Division of Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, administers the Smith River program based in Region 4 Headquarters in Great Falls, Montana. Cooperative management support is also provided by the U.S. Forest Service out of the White Sulphur Springs and Belt Creek Ranger Districts of the Lewis & Clark National Forest.

Administrative duties in the FWP office include planning and preparation for the coming season, updating printed and website information, purchasing supplies, hiring employees, meeting with the USFS and commercial guide/outfitters, and preparing for the lottery drawing for the private Smith River float permits. The majority of the office time spent throughout the float season involves answering public inquiries via the telephone.

Duties in the field include routine maintenance of the recreational facilities along the river corridor from Camp Baker (put-in) to Eden Bridge (take-out), including the 52 boat camps along the river. Visitor outreach and education, with an emphasis on public safety, resource protection and Leave No Trace ethics are also typical duties. River Rangers conduct weekly float patrols on the Smith River throughout the float season.

The Smith River rangers spend several hours each day at Camp Baker answering questions, conducting pre-launch informative talks, registering floaters, collecting floater fees and recording daily use statistics, which are used to track recreational float use trends on the river.

Staffing

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks employees involved with the 2006 Smith River program included:

- Colin Maas – Park Management Specialist
- Kirk Perszyk – Seasonal River Ranger
- Will Dubielczyk – Seasonal River Ranger
- Rebecca Filipowicz – Temporary River Ranger
- Fay Schaller – Smith River Reservation Clerk
- Carla Corbally – Smith River Reservation Clerk
- Chris Dantic – Interpretive Specialist
- Roger Semler – Region 4 Parks Manager

Numerous other FWP employees from R-4 and Helena Headquarters office played a role in a team effort to make the Smith River program work successfully.

On June 01, 2006, Wil Dubielczyk resigned as River Ranger, after several years of dedicated service in several positions with FWP, to pursue full-time employment in the private sector. On June 06, 2006, Rebecca Filipowicz was hired as a temporary River Ranger.

In July of 2006, Fay Schaller resigned as Reservation Clerk/Volunteer Coordinator and accepted a position with the USFS Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center. Carla Corbally, who served as the Reservation Clerk in 2005, was hired to replace Fay Schaller.

2006 Budget

The fiscal year 2006 (July 1, 2005 - June 30, 2006) operations and personal services budget for the Smith River program was \$90,082. This budget was funded by the following sources:

- Parks-earned revenue (floater fees collected)
- General license dollars
- Coal severance tax

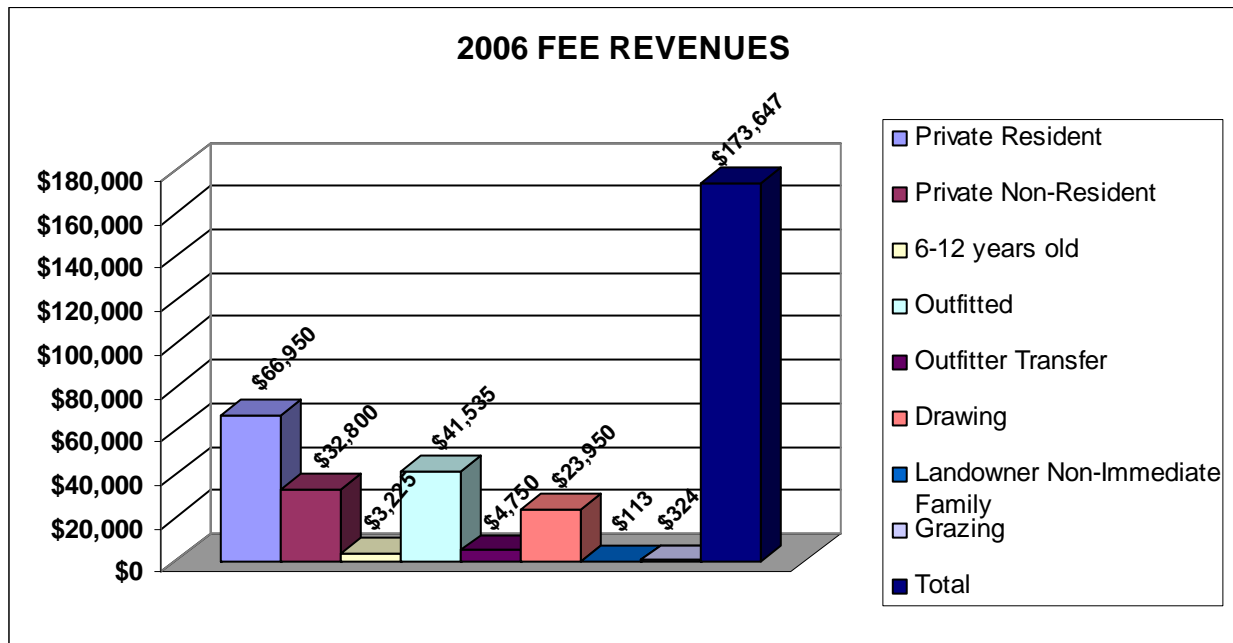
The US Forest Service Challenge Cost Share agreement was renewed for the twelfth year with the Lewis & Clark and Helena National Forests. This agreement provided an additional \$7,500 to FWP for maintenance and operations of the USFS boat camps along the Smith River.

Fee Revenue

The following floater fees were approved for the 2005-06 season (April 01 – October 31) through the Parks Biennial Fee Rule:

- Permit drawing fee (residents and non-residents, non refundable) = **\$5.00**
- Private launch pre-registration fee (resident application) = **\$25.00**
- Private launch pre-registration fee (non-resident application) = **\$50.00**
- Montana Resident Floaters Age 13+, Outfitter Staff (4/1 – 10/31) = **\$25.00**
- Non-Montana Resident Floaters Age 13+ (4/1 – 10/31) = **\$50.00**
- Children Ages 6-12 (Resident or Non-resident) (4/1 – 10/31) = **\$15.00**
- Landowner Non Immediate Family = **\$7.50**
- Outfitted Client Floater = **\$100.00**
- Outfitted Pre Launch Fee = **\$200.00**
- Outfitted Transfer Fee = **\$250.00**

Total fee revenue collected from the Smith River program in 2006 was \$173,647.



GRAPH 1: TOTAL FEES COLLECTED FOR 2006 SMITH RIVER PROGRAM

Corridor Enhancement Account

The Smith River Corridor Enhancement Account (CEA) was established by the FWP Commission to “better manage and protect the river corridor.” Fifty dollars from each outfitted client fee and 5% of all other fees collected are put into the CEA. The CEA can be used only for the Smith River Corridor, including the purchase of lands and easements. During the 2006 season, \$32,001 was added to the CEA account. As of November 16, 2006, the balance of the CEA was \$308,751.

Administrative Floats

A total of 13 administrative river patrol floats were conducted during the 2006 season for the purpose of managing the Smith River. The primary focus of these trips was visitor education and outreach, boat camp maintenance, resource protection, law enforcement, landowner contacts, noxious weed control and public safety.

During routine river patrols, rangers visited with numerous recreational floaters and landowners throughout the 59-mile river corridor. Campsites were checked for litter and resource damage, signs were repaired or replaced, fire grates were cleaned out, and pit latrines were dug and maintained. Litter was packed out including metal and glass thrown into the fire rings, along with partially burned garbage. Private property was checked for signage, trespass and other impacts.

Field personnel continue to provide an important means for FWP and USFS to observe and address visitor use and resource protection concerns and issues.

Volunteer Activity

In 2006, 45 citizen volunteers contributed approximately 2,448 hours (equivalent to 1.18 FTE) to the Smith River program. Volunteer hosts at the Eden Bridge take-out provided important maintenance and visitor services for floaters, as well as collecting post-trip floater logs. They also collected and separated approximately 400 pounds of aluminum cans for recycling, which were donated to a non-profit organization. Other volunteers also performed additional duties including, shuttling FWP vehicles, accompanying River Rangers during river patrols and performing a five-day noxious weed float, pulling Hounds Tongue in the boat camps.

Volunteers add immeasurably to the Smith River program. For example, vandalism was greatly reduced at the Eden Bridge take-out when a volunteer host was present. The interaction between volunteers and FWP staff helps gain insight on public opinion and feedback on river resource and social conditions.

Education and Outreach

The river rangers continued to conduct pre-float orientation talks at the Camp Baker put-in to educate and inform floaters about river safety, as well as the rules and regulations for floating the Smith River. Noxious weed control is also discussed in an effort to make the public aware of the problems with noxious weed infestations. Rangers emphasized Leave No Trace ethics and their importance to minimizing social and resource impacts in the river corridor.

In late 2005, FWP entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Meagher and Cascade County Weed Districts, USDA Forest Service and the Smith River Habitat Project Inc. for cooperative management of noxious weeds throughout the Smith River Corridor. During the 2006 season, FWP installed a noxious weed information board at Camp Baker posting details about the cooperative weed treatment program in place within the Smith River corridor.



Pre-float orientation talk.

The Smith River website and mail-out floater information packet were updated and improved to address frequently asked questions, special resource protection concerns, and recommendations to reduce group size to help FWP comply with the Smith River Management Plan standards.

Projects Completed

The following projects were accomplished in late 2005 through the summer of 2006:

Camp Baker

- Information/Self-Registration Kiosk completed.
- Noxious weed Information Board installed.
- New Regulations sign installed.
- Several picnic tables and fire rings replaced.
- Fence post and section of railing replaced bordering down-stream launch.

River Corridor

- All 52 boat camp signs replaced.
- Baseline resource impact measurements were conducted in the following five boat camps: Middle Trout Creek, Upper Table Rock, Upper Fraunhofer, Upper Parker Flat and Upper Rattlesnake
- Experimental dehydrating toilet permanently shut down due to ineffectiveness. Complete removal is in planning process.
- Volunteer group from Malmstrom Air Force Base performed Hounds Tongue weed-pull float.

Eden Bridge

- Storage building (formerly Giant Springs entrance station) placed on site.
- New regulations sign installed.
- State Park "Host" signs installed.
- Entrance gate installed.
- Latrine door replaced.
- New jack-leg fence installed.
- Three campsites constructed (gravel pad, picnic table, fire ring) to provide overnight accommodations during hunting season (9/01 – 12/01).
- Tree branches trimmed throughout site.



REPLACING BOAT CAMP SIGNS

Management Actions

The Smith River program implemented the following management actions and recommendations in 2006:

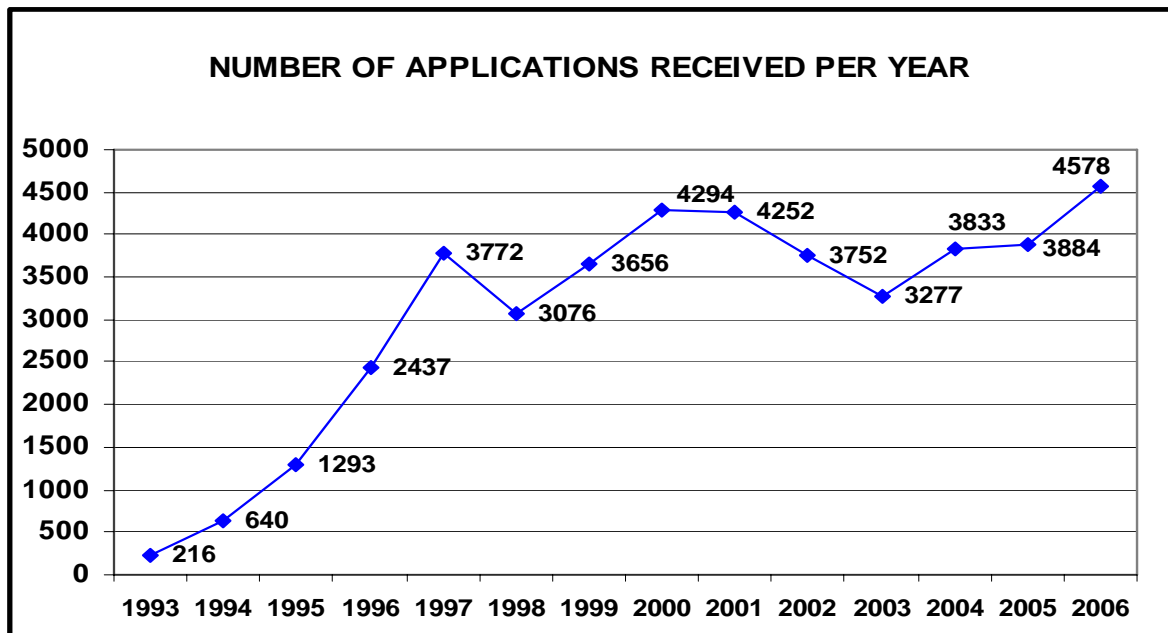
- FWP continued the implementation of a 2004 policy for permit cancellations during the May 25th through July 10th peak-use period to address the average group size indicator exceeding the established Management Plan standard. All launch permits voluntarily canceled and reallocated were limited to a maximum group size of eight individuals during this high use period.
- FWP continued measures to help reduce the number of Department staff on the river. FWP did not conduct any administrative floats during the May 25th – July 10th period, except for the scheduled River Ranger/enforcement patrols and trips related to noxious weed control.
- FWP continued to recommend that float groups limit their group size to eight people or less and trip duration to no more than four days and three nights in order to help compliance with the Smith River Management Plan standards for maximum number of people in the corridor at one time and average group size per month.
- FWP continued to recommend that floaters leave dogs at home, unless visitors fully intend to comply with the leash regulation. Dogs brought along on recreational floats have become an increasing source of complaints from floaters, as well as landowners along the river. Again in 2006, as in years past, FWP received complaints (verbal and written) related to dog problems at Camp Baker, the boat camps, and Eden Bridge. Incidents over the years have included visitor injuries from dog bites, dogs getting into food in adjacent camps, dog waste left behind, digging of holes, chasing of livestock and wildlife and associated trespassing onto private property. Floaters were again advised that citations will be issued for all dogs not kept on leash and under control at all times during the 2006 float season.
- FWP issued a voluntary fishing restriction advisory on July 06, 2006, asking anglers to voluntarily limit fishing between the hours of 5 a.m. and noon, due to high water temperatures and the associated stress to fish. On July 31, 2006, FWP implemented a “mandatory” fishing restriction, limiting angling between the hours of 5 a.m. and noon. The mandatory restriction was rescinded on 9/01/06.
- FWP completed an Environmental Assessment proposing to purchase and install prefabricated office and residence buildings with associated utilities at Camp Baker. A Decision Notice to proceed with the proposal was completed on October 23, 2006. The project will begin in the spring of 2007.

SECTION 4 - VISITOR USE STATISTICS

Private Launch Applications

A total of 4,578 public launch applications were received for the 2006 float season. This was an all-time high, surpassing the previous high of 4,294 applications in 2000, and was a 17.8% increase from the 3,884 applications received for the 2005 float season.

The private application forms were made available electronically on the FWP web page during the 2006 application period. The public was able to apply on-line or print the application, fill it out and mail it in. The applications were also made available at all FWP Regional offices. Applications were accepted from Jan. 1, 2006 through Feb. 15, 2006. A trip planning information sheet was provided with the application with answers to frequently asked questions regarding recommended stream flows for floating, camping facilities, and river regulations.



GRAPH 2: NUMBER OF APPLICANTS PER YEAR

First-Time Floaters: Private Permits

In 2006, “first-time” private permit holders were tracked. The results found that of the 582 private group permit holders that floated the Smith River in 2006, 143 (25%) were first-time floaters.

Floater Registration

FWP Commission rules (Smith River Special Use Area Rule) require mandatory registration for all floaters on the Smith River between Camp Baker and Eden Bridge from April 01 to October 31. This includes initially applying for a private launch date and then completing the registration procedures on the day of departure at Camp Baker.

Because of high demand for floating the Smith River and limitations on the number of launches allowed, a drawing is held for the initial allocation of all private float launch dates. The 2006 season marked the 14TH year of this process. In 2006, the number of applications for the drawing increased, surpassing the previous high in 2000. 821 private launch permits were allocated via the 2006 drawing. The success rate for obtaining a permit through the lottery was approximately 18%.

All applications received were entered into a computer database. Immediately after the drawing, floaters packets with permits were sent to successful applicants. Refunds were issued to those who were unsuccessful and who elected not to donate their permit application fee to the CEA.

After the initial drawing, remaining launch dates were made available to the public. The computer based reservation system allows FWP to track cancellations and open launch dates, which are then made available via the Smith River reservation phone line. The computer database continues to be refined and serves both the public and FWP very well.

Self-registration by floaters is required in the event river rangers are not present at Camp Baker. The instructions for self-registration and campsite declaration are posted on the kiosk information board located at Camp Baker. Floaters are left to the honor system to fill out the registration/ permit and follow all of the instructions to complete the process. All watercraft utilized by floaters are required to display a boat tag while on the river. Different colored tags were used to distinguish private, outfitted and landowner groups.

During the 2006 float season, 41 groups were “no-shows”. Many of these were during the late or early part of the season. In accordance with FWP Commission rules, permit holders failing to properly cancel their reservation will not be able to apply for the 2007 drawing. There were a total of 460 permits that were cancelled. All of these permits were made available for pick-up, with the exception of the first five cancellations during any given week from June 10 to July 10. The total number of cancelled permits includes three different types: 1) Cancelled. 2) Cancelled/Combined: consolidating a permit with another permit holder in order to float with them. 3) Cancelled/Changed Date: canceling an original launch date while moving into another launch date.

Floater Logs

The floater log is an information card that floaters voluntarily fill out and return at the conclusion of their trip. Floaters were asked to do one of the following with their completed floater log: 1) Give their completed floater log to the FWP volunteers at Eden Bridge. 2) Deposit their logs in the receptacle at Eden Bridge, or 3) Send them to the Great Falls FWP office if no one was present at Eden Bridge to collect them. In addition to general data collection, many personal comments relating to a memorable experience or observations were noted. Of 582 private and outfitted groups that floated, 415 (71%) returned a floater log.

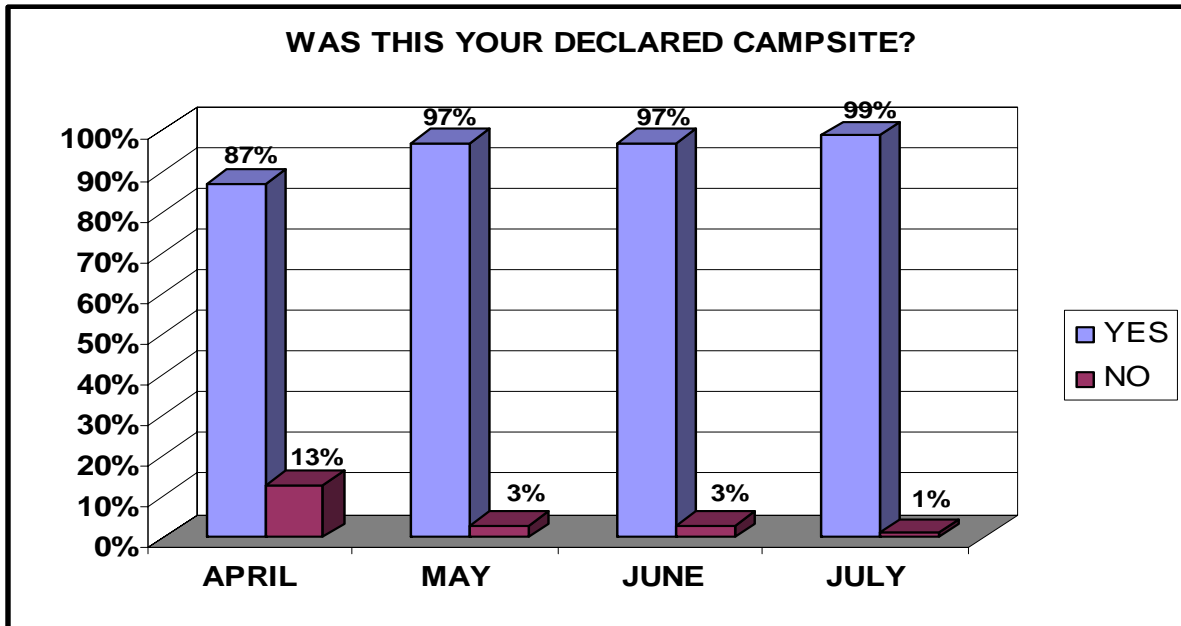
Floater Log Comment Summary

The floater’s log comment card is a great way to get instant feedback from recreational users of the Smith River. A complete list of all the floater log comments is available on the FWP Smith River website fwp.state.mt.gov, or call 406-454-5857 to receive a copy. The comments from the 415 floater logs are summarized on pages 13-21.

2006 FLOATER LOG COMMENT SUMMARY

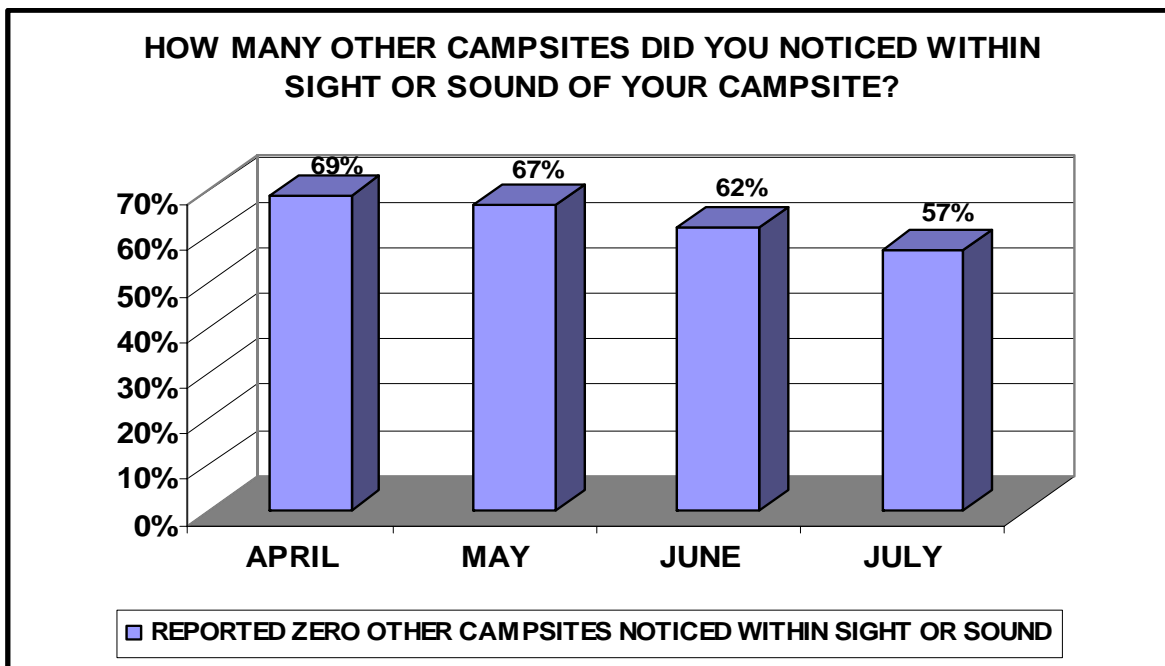
CAMPSITE QUESTIONS:

Question: Was this your declared campsite?



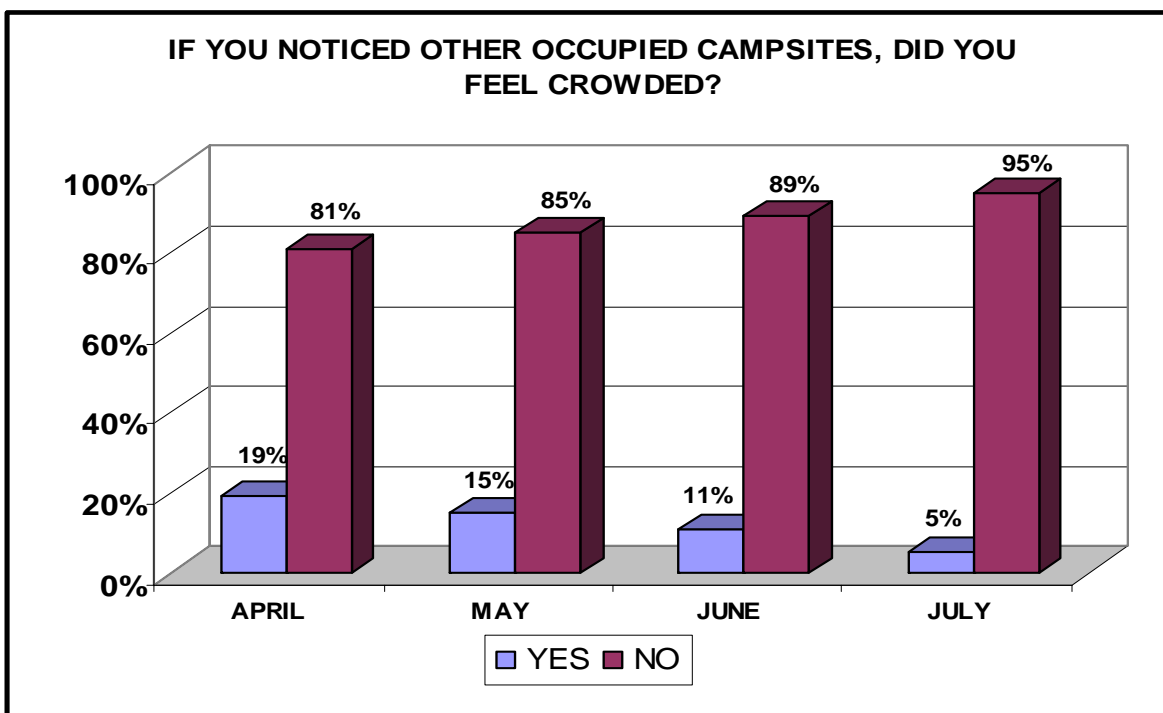
GRAPH 3: FLOATER CAMPSITE DECLARATION

Question: How many other occupied campsites did you notice within sight or sound of your campsite?



GRAPH 4: FLOATER CAMPSITE OBSERVATIONS

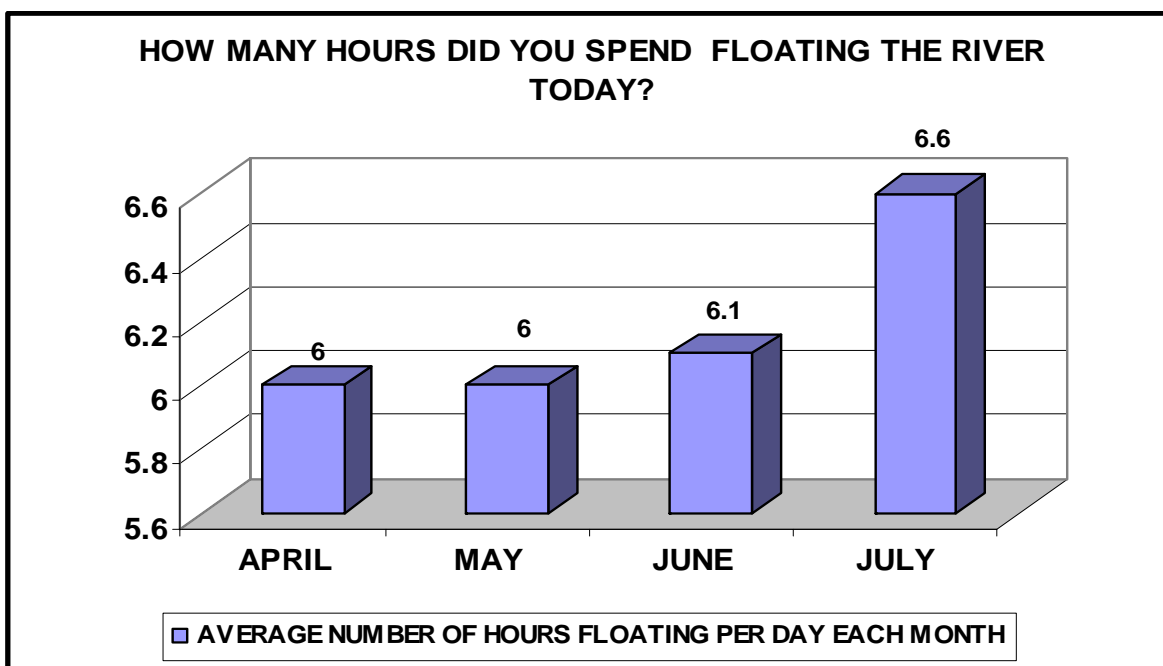
Question: If you noticed other campsites did you feel crowded?



GRAPH 5: FLOATER CAMPSITE PERCEPTION OF CROWDING

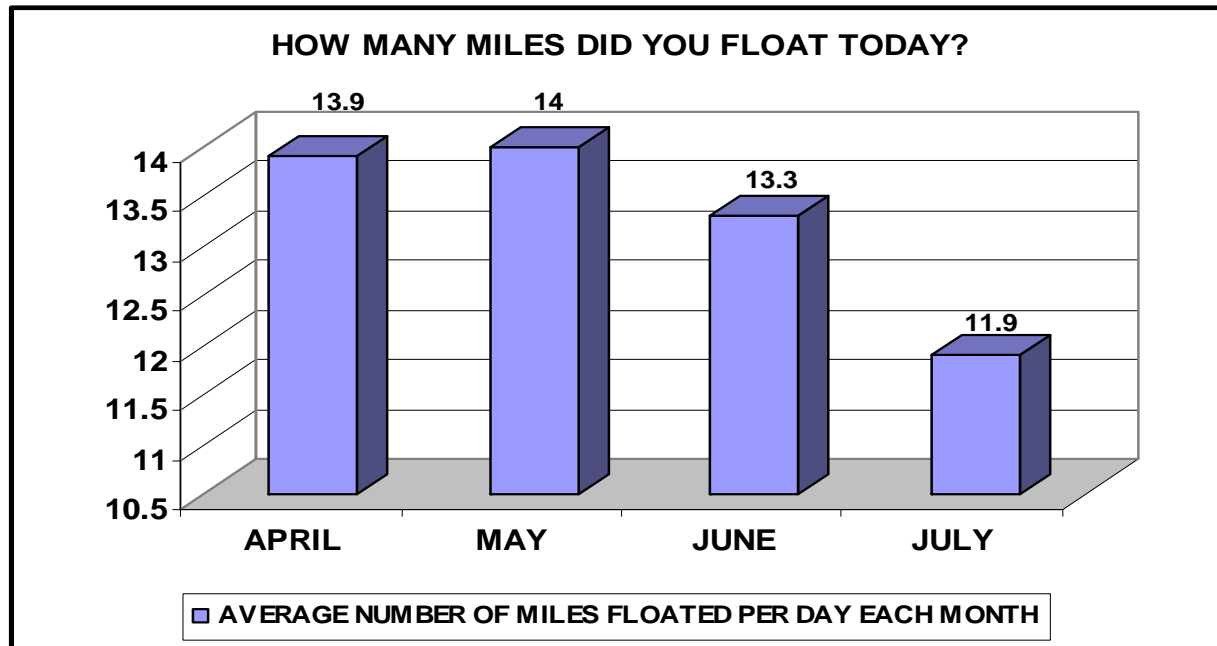
FLOATING QUESTIONS

Question: How many **hours** did you spend floating the river today?



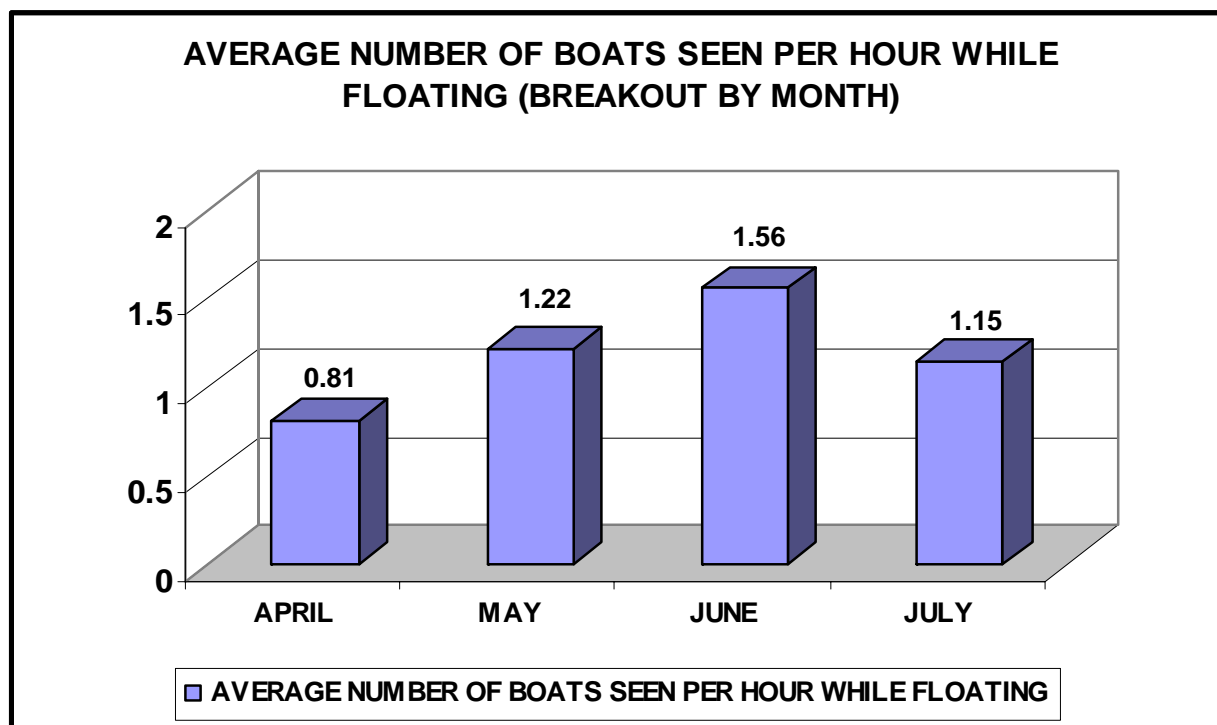
GRAPH 6: FLOATER HOURS ON THE RIVER PER DAY

Question: How many **miles** did you float today?

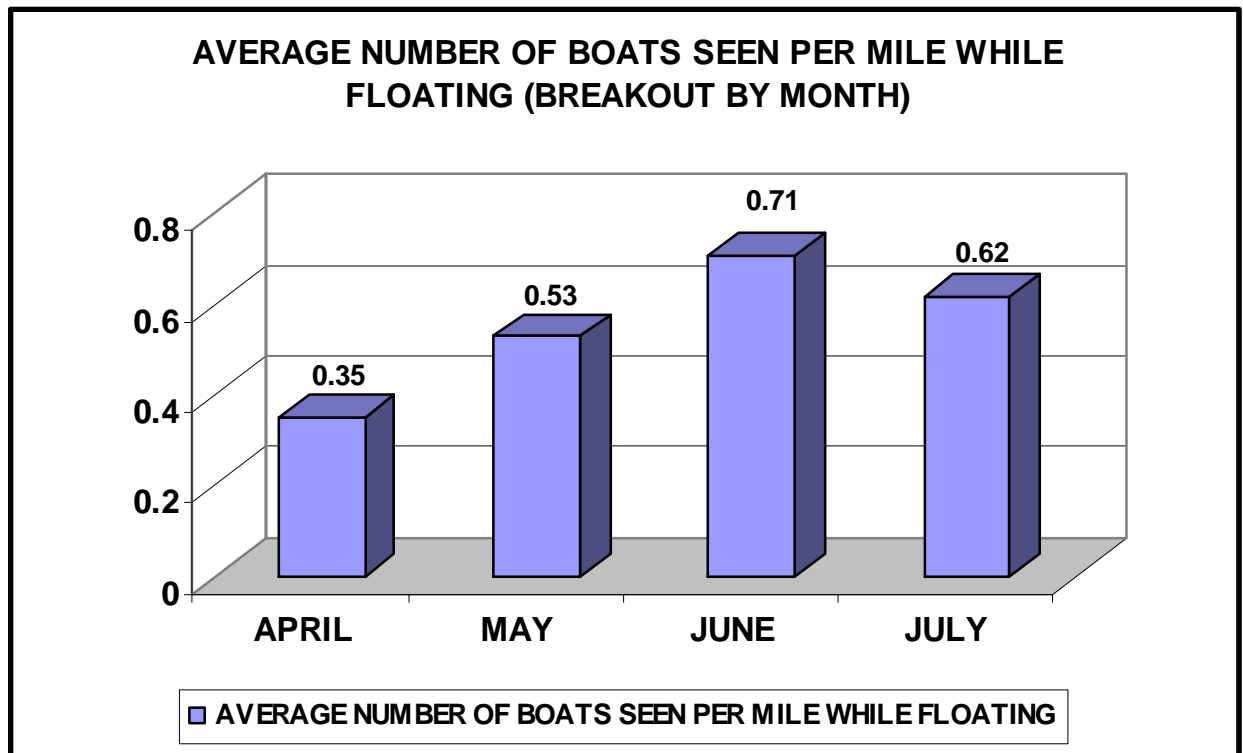


GRAPH 7: FLOATER DAILY MILES

Question: How many other **boats** did you see while floating the river today (excluding your group)?

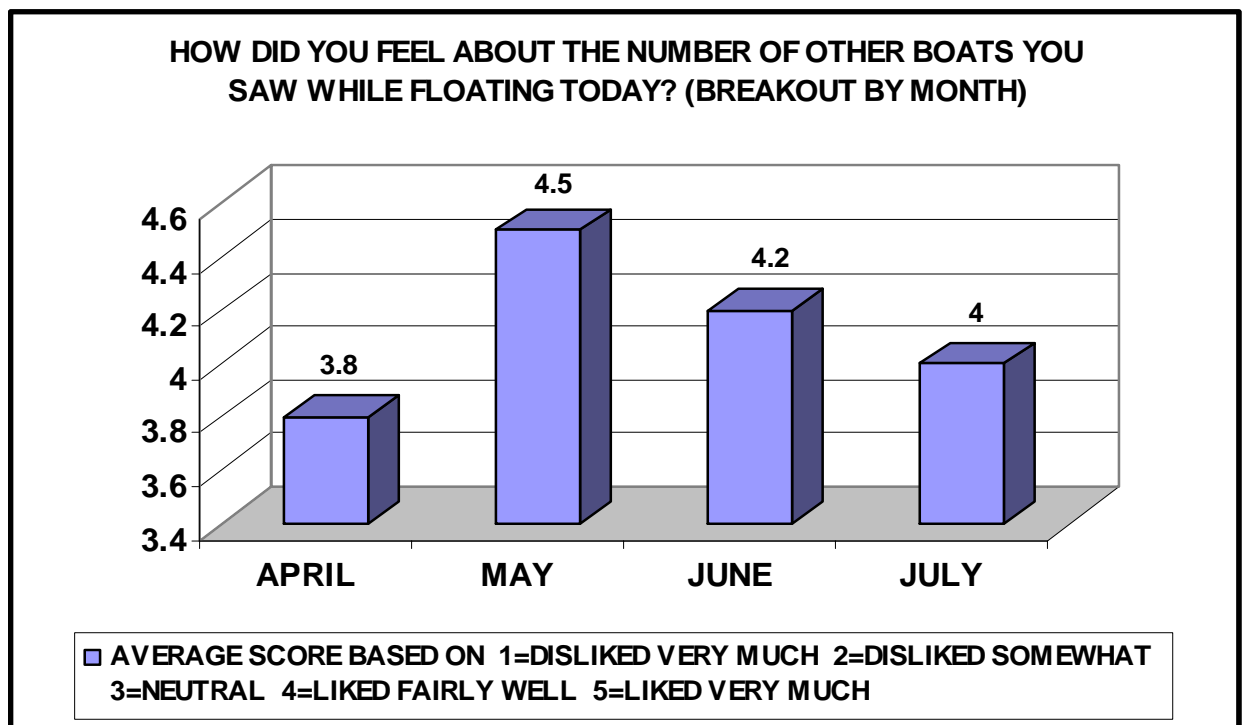


GRAPH 8: FLOATER PERCEPTION OF NUMBER OF BOATS SEEN PER HOUR



GRAPH 9: FLOATER PERCEPTION OF NUMBER OF BOATS SEEN PER MILE

Question: How did you **feel** about the number of other boats you saw while floating the river today?



GRAPH 10: FLOATER PERCEPTION OF NUMBER OF BOATS SEEN PER DAY

Question # 1: If you DID NOT stay at a declared campsite at any time during your float trip, why not?

Question # 1 - Content Analysis:

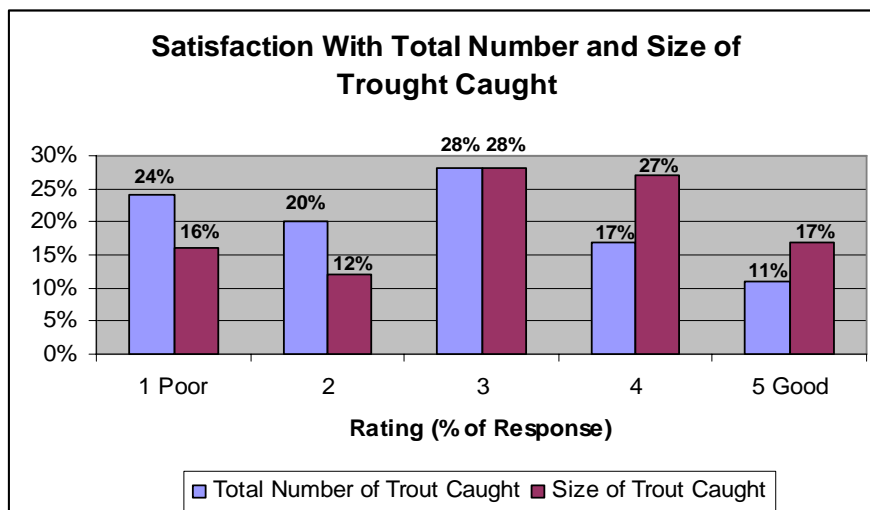
A total of 40 parties recorded one or more responses to this question on the 2006 Floater Logs. The stated reasons or rationale (# of comments noted in parenthesis) for deviating from declared campsites included:

- Weather-induced changes in itinerary (9)
- Double booked campsites (4)
- Displaced by another group (5)
- Mutual trade with another group (2)
- Social conflict with group in adjacent camp (1)
- Stayed at friends camp (2)
- Disliked campsite conditions, facilities or setting (1)
- Shortened float, floated faster than expected, exited river early (4)
- Confused about name or location of declared campsite (1)
- Late start on river (4)
- Stayed in private cabin or property (2)
- Fatigue and/or Illness (3)
- Undeclared campsite was empty, so it was utilized (1)
- Accidentally passed campsite (3)
- Boat or equipment problems (1)
- River too high or too fast (1)
- To make additional mileage (1)

Question #2: If you fished on your float trip, how would you rate the following aspects of your fishing experience on the Smith River?

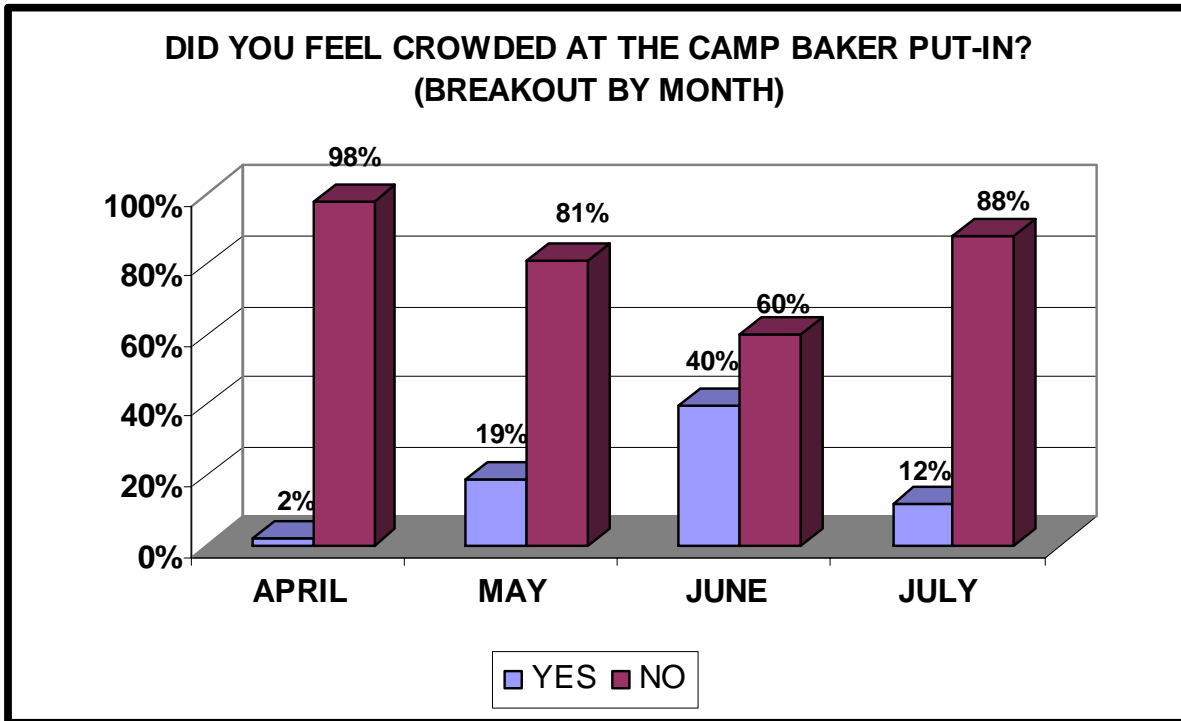
Question # 2 – Content Analysis:

Table 1 represents the percentage (%) of floaters rating their satisfaction with the total number of trout caught as well as, the size of trout caught. The scale runs from 1 (poor) to 5 (good).



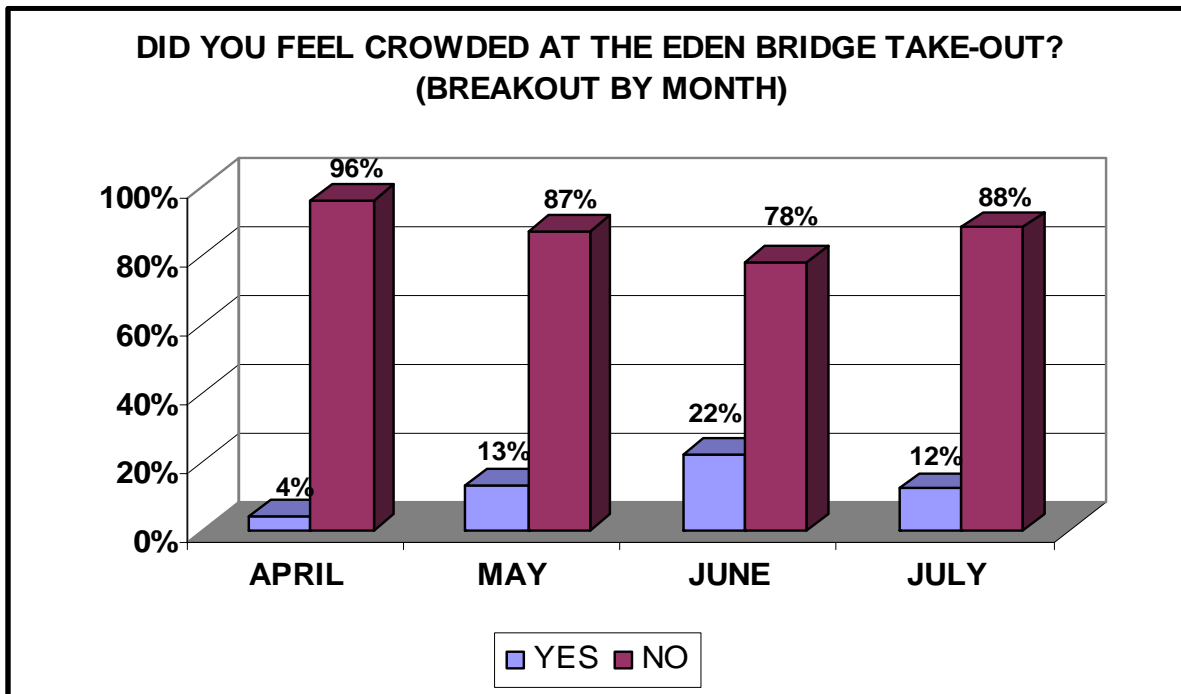
GRAPH 11: SATISFACTION WITH THE NUMBER AND SIZE OF TROUT CAUGHT.

Question #3: Did you feel crowded at the put-in? Yes or No



GRAPH 12: FLOATER PERCEPTION OF FEELING CROWDED AT CAMP BAKER PUT-IN

Question #4: Did you feel crowded at the take-out? Yes or No



GRAPH 13: FLOATER PERCEPTION OF FEELING CROWDED AT EDEN BRIDGE TAKE-OUT

Question # 5: Did you witness any fishing, trespassing or litter violations during your float trip? If so, what and where? Please note the boat tag number if possible.

Question # 5 - Content Analysis:

A total of 49 parties recorded one or more responses (number of comments are in parenthesis) to this question on the 2006 Floater Logs. Note: Any violations that were documented by floaters in questions 7 (general comments) is also included here. The stated observations of non-compliance are summarized as follows:

- Litter (22)
- Litter in fire ring (9)
- Litter in toilet (2)
- Litter in or along river (5)
- Dog off leash (2)
- Dog waste (4)
- Campfire unattended – not dead out (8)
- Campfire out of designated grates (2)
- Improper disposal of human waste (4)
- Vandalism – Cultural resource (2)
- Vandalism – Park Property/Facilities (1)
- Property Disturbance – Tree cutting (2)
- Property Disturbance – Fire ring moved (2)
- Disorderly Conduct – Quiet hours violation (3)
- Firearms – Discharging in boat camp (2)
- No boat tags (1)
- Fishing Violation – Fishing outside mandatory hoot-owl restriction hours (1)
- Illegal outfitting (suspected): (2)

Question # 7: Any other comments you have about your Smith River Trip or about the river in general are more than welcome.

Question # 7 - Content Analysis:

A total of 256 parties recorded one or more responses (number of comments are in parenthesis) to this question on the 2006 Floater Logs. The content of the comments are analyzed as follows:

General Response

- Overall positive and/or satisfied with their river float experience (117)
- Complimentary or positive comments regarding FWP's Smith River management efforts/practices (31)
- Negative comments regarding FWP's Smith River management efforts/practices (2)
- Provided recommendations for changes in FWP management practices (59)
- Positive comments regarding FWP River Rangers or Staff (26)
- Negative comments regarding FWP River Rangers or staff (4)
- Positive comments regarding launch and campsite conditions (27)
- Negative comments regarding launch or campsite conditions (8)
- Comments regarding river conditions and good fishing (3)

- Comments regarding river conditions and poor fishing (7)
- Comments or complaints regarding private property or landowners (3)

Specific Complaints:

- Visitor behavior & user conflicts (16)
- Guide/Outfitter behavior/attitude (6)
- Too many outfitters (1)
- Group size too large (4)
- Crowding in campgrounds (2)
- Crowding/too many boats on river (1)
- Human waste in campsite (4)
- Dogs off leash (3)
- Dog waste in campsite (4)
- Livestock impacts in campsites (2)
- Trees/snags in river (3)
- Noxious weed infestations (7)
- Fencing/gates across river (3)
- Trucks driving past Trout Creek campsite and across river (1)
- Latrine full (8)
- Latrine sign down (3)
- Latrines too far from camp (1)
- Latrine lid and/or seat missing (10)
- Double booked in campsite (2)
- Upper and Middle Table Rock too close together (1)
- Fishing outside of recommended hoot-owl hours (2)
- Witnessed poor catch and release techniques (1)
- Fire ring full of ashes (1)
- Fire ring poorly placed (1)
- Fire rings dangerous (1)
- Rock dam across river (1)
- Poison Ivy should be exterminated (1)
- Dead fish in river (7)

Specific Recommendations:

Permits, Allocation, Fees

- Allocate campsites during permit drawing, rather than at Camp Baker (2)
- Reduce maximum group size (5)
- Reduce number of launches per day (1)
- Reduce number of days allowed on river (1)
- Increase number of days allowed on river (2)
- Reduce number of boats allowed per group (1)
- Reduce amount of commercial use (2)
- Waive outfitter fees for disabled veterans trip (1)

Administrative Rules

- Prohibit dogs on river (1)
 - Continue to allow dogs on river (2)
 - Rescind pet leash law (1)
- Post and enforce quiet hours at Camp Baker (1)

Education and Outreach

- Stress importance of staying at designated campsites (1)
- Add information to floater packet pertaining to equipment, safety and boating skills required (1)
- Add general information to web site (1)
- Add boat camp descriptions to floater packet (1)
- Add information to floater packet pertaining to proper raft size in relation to river flows (1)
- Provide weather report information during orientation (1)
- Additional noxious weed information needed (1)
- Provide ethics/etiquette brochure and information to each group (2)

Fishing

- Implement catch and release fishing only (3)
- Require barbless hooks (1)
- Prohibit fishing during high water temperatures (1)
- Reduce amount of irrigation (1)

Boat Camps and Facilities

- Provide more detailed maps (GPS camps, show upper, middle & lower sites): (3)
- Need more screening around latrines (1)
- Add more boat camps in certain sections of river (1)
- Disperse boat camp locations more evenly (1)
- Don't add additional signing along corridor – fear of losing wilderness experience (1)
- Install bear resistant food lockers (1)
- Install food hanging poles (1)
- Supply a bucket for adding water to pit latrines (1)
- Provide a changing room at take-out (1)
- Repair broken gate hinge at Middle Table Rock Boat Camp (2)
- Continue to provide pit latrines (2)
- Move latrine farther from fire ring and river at County Line Boat Camp (1)
- Brush latrine trails (2)
- Temporarily close Upper Black Butte Boat Camp for revegetation (1)
- Cut and split felled trees for firewood (1)

Safety

- Add information to floater packet pertaining to equipment, safety and boating skills required (1)
- Clear blocked right channel above Eden Bridge (1)

Weeds

- Add information on actions the public can take (1)
- Need better weed control (2)

Landowner Day Floats

There are approximately 111 private landowners along the Smith River Corridor between Camp Baker and Eden Bridge. Many of these landowners own small parcels (i.e. cabins or cabin sites) at the Two Creeks (mile 18.5) and Castle Bar (mile 22) subdivisions. The Smith River Special Use Area Rule provides floating opportunities for bona fide Smith River landowners to float the river with immediate family members for day floats with few restrictions. Sixteen landowner groups involving 67 people used this landowner floating privilege during the 2006 float season.

Landowner Non-Immediate Family Day Floats

In 1998, the Smith River Special Use Area Rule was modified to allow bona fide Smith River landowners to float the river with non-immediate family for day floats. Ten landowner groups involving 74 people used this landowner floating privilege during the 2006 season.

Fee-Waived Floats

The Smith River Special Use Area Rule allows fee-waived floats under certain special criteria. One fee-waived floats took place during the 2006 float season.

Private Floats

During the 2006 float season, a total of 582 private groups floated the Smith River involving a total of 3,894 individual public floaters. The 14-year average of private use is 526 groups with 3,136 people.

Commercially Outfitted Floats

During the 2006 float season, a total of 52-outfitted groups floated the Smith River involving 638 floaters (includes both clients and guides). The 14-year average of outfitted use is 49 groups per year with 563 people. The 10 recognized licensed outfitters are allocated a total of 73 commercial launches. All outfitter launches not used by the outfitters were made available to the public for use.

The following licensed outfitters operated on the Smith River in 2006:

- Big Sky Expeditions (Helena, MT)
- Blackfoot River Outfitters (Missoula, MT)
- Blast & Cast Outfitters (Ennis, MT)
- Glacier Wilderness Guides (West Glacier, MT)
- High Plains Drifter (Missoula, MT)
- Montana Fly Fishing Connection (Missoula, MT)
- Lewis & Clark Expeditions (Helena, MT)
- Paul Roos Outfitters (Helena, MT)
- Smith River Fly Fishing Expeditions (Ennis, MT)
- The Complete Fly Fisher (Wise River, MT)

Commercial Shuttle Services

Five commercial shuttle services provided vehicle shuttles between Camp Baker and Eden Bridge for Smith River floaters this float season. At present, these businesses are not required to obtain a commercial use permit from FWP.

Boat Camp Ownership and Administration

FWP and the USFS maintain 27 boat camps containing 52 individual campsites throughout the 59-mile river corridor between Camp Baker and Eden Bridge. Some boat camps have only one campsite while others have as many as two or three campsites at each boat camp. For example, Rock Creek Boat Camp has only one campsite, whereas Indian Springs Boat Camp has an upper, middle and lower campsite. Boat camps typically include a marked landing area, cleared areas for tents and cooking, and a primitive pit latrine.

Since 1986, FWP has leased private land for boat camps throughout the Smith River Corridor. Most leases are located along the lower sections of the canyon where there is very little public land; currently 10 of the 52 individual boat camps along the river are leased sites. FWP leases Syringa Boat Camp (mile 15.2) from the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation. Staigmiller (mile 44), Upper, Middle and Lower Ridgetop (mile 45), Upper, Middle and Lower Givens Gulch (mile 47.2) and Upper and Lower Rattlesnake Boat Camps (mile 47.4) are all leased from private landowners.

Leasing private lands for boat campsites has provided significant opportunities for the floating public, while compensating private landowners for the use of their land. Of the remaining 42 campsites, 14 sites are on FWP property and 28 are on USFS property.

2006 Boat Camp Overnight Use

A user night is defined as “the number of nights one individual spends in the river corridor.” For example, one person spending 4 nights on the river equates to 4 user nights. A total of 15,896 user nights were recorded on the Smith River in 2006. Most of these user nights were spent in the 27 boat camps, while a handful of floaters spent the night in private cabins.

The table on page 24 summarizes 2006 Boat Camp Overnight Use. The data was derived from floater registration data collected at Camp Baker. The table shows the total number of groups that stayed at each site during the 2006 season and the ownership of each site.

2006 BOAT CAMP GROUP USE

BOAT CAMP	RIVER MILE	LAND OWNERSHIP	NUMBER OF GROUPS STAYED AT EACH BOATCAMP	% OF OVERALL USE
UPPER SPRING CREEK	4.4	FWP	10	0.46%
LOWER SPRING CREEK	4.4	FWP	1	0.05%
IN LIEU	5.6	FWP	1	0.05%
UPPER INDIAN SPRINGS	6	HLNF	0	0.00%
MIDDLE INDIAN SPRINGS	6	HLNF	51	2.32%
LOWER INDIAN SPRINGS	6	HLNF	31	1.41%
UPPER ROCK GARDEN	6.8	HLNF	54	2.46%
LOWER ROCK GARDEN	6.8	HLNF	11	0.50%
ROCK CREEK	8.9	HLNF	101	4.60%
UPPER SCOTTY ALLEN	12	HLNF	55	2.50%
MIDDLE SCOTTY ALLEN	12	HLNF	37	1.68%
LOWER SCOTTY ALLEN	12	HLNF	80	3.64%
SYRINGA	15.2	DNRC	80	3.64%
CANYON DEPTH	16.9	LCNF	81	3.69%
TWO CREEK	17.8	LCNF	20	0.91%
SHEEPWAGON	18.4	LCNF	46	2.09%
UPPER COW COULEE	22.8	LCNF	60	2.73%
MIDDLE COW COULEE	22.8	LCNF	50	2.28%
LOWER COW COULEE	22.8	LCNF	20	0.91%
UPPER SUNSET CLIFF	23.6	LCNF	67	3.05%
MIDDLE SUNSET CLIFF	23.6	LCNF	66	3.00%
LOWER SUNSET CLIFF	23.6	LCNF	80	3.64%
COUNTY LINE	25.5	LCNF	9	0.41%
UPPER BEAR GULCH	29	LCNF	12	0.55%
LOWER BEAR GULCH	29	LCNF	12	0.55%
UPPER TROUT CREEK	30.3	FWP	38	1.73%
MIDDLE TROUT CREEK	30.3	FWP	53	2.41%
LOWER TROUT CREEK	30.3	FWP	41	1.87%
CROWSFOOT	32	FWP	79	3.60%
UPPER TABLE ROCK	33.5	LCNF	62	2.82%
MIDDLE TABLE ROCK	33.5	LCNF	23	1.05%
LOWER TABLE ROCK	33.5	LCNF	9	0.41%
UPPER FRAUNHOFER	35.4	LCNF	53	2.41%
MIDDLE FRAUNHOFER	35.4	LCNF	10	0.46%
LOWER FRAUNHOFER	35.4	LCNF	28	1.27%
UPPER PARKER FLAT	37.5	LCNF	57	2.59%
PARKER FLAT #1	37.9	FWP	33	1.50%
PARKER FLAT #2	37.9	FWP	3	0.14%
PARKER FLAT #3	37.9	FWP	37	1.68%
PARADISE BEND	39.5	FWP	52	2.37%
STAIGMILLER	44	PRIVATE	22	1.00%
MERGANSER BEND	44.5	FWP	24	1.09%
UPPER BLACK BUTTE	44.8	FWP	29	1.32%
LOWER BLACK BUTTE	44.8	FWP	2	0.09%
UPPER RIDGETOP	45	PRIVATE	57	2.59%
MIDDLE RIDGETOP	45	PRIVATE	34	1.55%
LOWER RIDGETOP	45	PRIVATE	75	3.41%
UPPER GIVENS GULCH	47.2	PRIVATE	65	2.96%
MIDDLE GIVENS GULCH	47.2	PRIVATE	54	2.46%
LOWER GIVENS GULCH	47.2	PRIVATE	80	3.64%
UPPER RATTLESNAKE	47.4	PRIVATE	80	3.64%
LOWER RATTLESNAKE	47.4	PRIVATE	62	2.82%
TOTALS			2197	100.00%

BOATCAMP LAND DISTRIBUTION

# OF SITES	SITES OWNED BY	% OF TOTAL SITES
14	FWP	27%
1	DNRC	2%
9	PRIVATE	17%
28	USFS	54%
52		100%

2006 SMITH RIVER USE STATISTICS BREAK DOWN BY MONTH												
MONTH	APRIL	APRIL BEAKDOWN ON TOTAL % OF APRIL USE	APRIL % OF OVERALL TOTAL SEASON USE	MAY	MAY BEAKDOWN ON TOTAL % OF MAY USE	MAY % OF OVERALL TOTAL SEASON USE	JUNE	JUNE BEAKDOWN ON TOTAL % OF JUNE USE	JUNE % OF OVERALL TOTAL SEASON USE	JULY	JULY BEAKDOWN ON TOTAL % OF JULY USE	JULY % OF OVERALL TOTAL SEASON USE
# OF FLOATERS-PRIVATE	397	92.97%	10.20%	1333	93.22%	0.00%	1594	76.75%	0.00%	548	70.26%	0.00%
# OF FLOATERS - GUIDED	9	2.11%	1.41%	84	5.87%	0.00%	395	19.02%	0.00%	150	19.23%	0.00%
# OF FLOATERS - ADMIN	13	3.04%	25.49%	3	0.21%	0.00%	21	1.01%	0.00%	14	1.79%	0.00%
# OF FLOATERS WAIVED	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	12	0.58%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%
# OF FLOATERS LANDOWNER	0	0.00%	0.00%	3	0.21%	0.00%	14	0.67%	0.00%	50	6.41%	0.00%
# OF FLOATERS LANDOWNER NON IMMEDIATE FAMILY	8	1.87%	10.81%	7	0.49%	0.00%	41	1.97%	0.00%	18	2.31%	0.00%
# OF FLOATERS - TOTAL	427	100.00%	9.02%	1430	100.00%	0.00%	2077	100.00%	0.00%	780	100.00%	0.00%
# OF GROUPS - PRIVATE	82	94.25%	14.09%	205	94.91%	0.00%	200	81.30%	0.00%	87	74.36%	0.00%
# OF GROUPS - GUIDED	1	1.15%	1.92%	7	3.24%	0.00%	31	12.60%	0.00%	13	11.11%	0.00%
# OF GROUPS - ADMIN	2	2.30%	15.38%	2	0.93%	0.00%	6	2.44%	0.00%	3	2.56%	0.00%
# OF GROUPS-WAIVED	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	1	0.41%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%
# OF GROUPS-LANDOWNER	0	0.00%	0.00%	1	0.46%	0.00%	3	1.22%	0.00%	12	10.26%	0.00%
# OF GROUPS-LANDOWNER NON IMMEDIATE FAMILY	2	2.30%	20.00%	1	0.46%	0.00%	5	2.03%	0.00%	2	1.71%	0.00%
# OF GROUPS - TOTAL	87	100.00%	12.91%	216	100.00%	0.00%	246	100.00%	0.00%	117	100.00%	0.00%
USER DAYS - PRIVATE	1605	93.86%	9.27%	5601	94.32%	0.00%	6975	76.65%	0.00%	3018	74.67%	0.00%
USER DAYS - GUIDED	45	2.63%	1.42%	316	5.32%	0.00%	1917	21.07%	0.00%	890	22.02%	0.00%
USER DAYS - ADMIN	52	3.04%	23.42%	11	0.19%	0.00%	93	1.02%	0.00%	66	1.63%	0.00%
USER DAYS - WAIVED	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	60	0.66%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%
USER DAYS - LANDOWNER	0	0.00%	0.00%	3	0.05%	0.00%	14	0.15%	0.00%	50	1.24%	0.00%
USER DAYS - LANDOWNER NON IMMEDIATE FAMILY	8	0.47%	10.81%	7	0.12%	0.00%	41	0.45%	0.00%	18	0.45%	0.00%
USER DAYS - TOTAL	1710	100.00%	8.18%	5938	100.00%	0.00%	9100	100.00%	0.00%	4042	100.00%	0.00%
USER NIGHTS - PRIVATE	1331	94.67%	0.01%	4405	94.35%	0.00%	5199	77.17%	0.00%	2268	75.63%	0.00%
USER NIGHTS - GUIDED	36	2.56%	0.00%	258	5.53%	0.00%	1418	21.05%	0.00%	681	22.71%	0.00%
USER NIGHTS - ADMIN	39	2.77%	0.02%	6	0.13%	0.00%	72	1.07%	0.00%	50	1.67%	0.00%
USER NIGHTS - WAIVED	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	48	0.71%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%
USER NIGHTS - TOTAL	1406	100.00%	0.02%	4669	100.00%	0.00%	6737	100.00%	0.00%	2999	100.00%	0.00%
AVG DAYS/GROUP - PRIVATE	4.04			4.20			4.38			5.51		
AVG DAYS/GROUP - GUIDED	5.00			3.76			4.85			5.93		
AVG DAYS/GROUP - ADM	4.00			3.67			4.43			4.71		
AVG DAYS/GROUP - TOTAL	4.35			3.88			4.55			5.38		
AVG # FLOATERS/GROUP - PRIVATE	4.84			6.50			7.97			6.30		
AVG # FLOATERS/GROUP - GUIDED	9.00			12.00			12.74			11.54		
AVG # FLOATERS/GROUP - ADM	6.50			1.50			3.50			4.67		
AVG # FLOATERS/GROUP - WAIVED	0.00			0.00			12.00			0.00		
AVG # FLOATERS/GROUP - LANDOWNER	0.00			3.00			4.67			4.17		
AVG # FLOATERS/GROUPS - LANDOWNER NON IMMEDIATE FAMILY	4.00			7.00			8.20			9.00		
AVG # FLOATERS/GROUP - TOTAL	4.91			6.62			8.44			6.67		
# OF RAFTS	140	69.31%	6.27%	516	78.78%	0.00%	662	68.46%	0.00%	241	61.32%	0.00%
# OF CANOES	31	15.35%	1.39%	56	8.55%	0.00%	88	9.10%	0.00%	69	17.56%	0.00%
# OF DRIFT BOATS	17	8.42%	0.76%	30	4.58%	0.00%	70	7.24%	0.00%	2	0.51%	0.00%
# OF KAYAK	2	0.99%	0.09%	31	4.73%	0.00%	116	12.00%	0.00%	56	14.25%	0.00%
# OF OTHER TYPE CRAFT	12	5.94%	0.54%	22	3.36%	0.00%	31	3.21%	0.00%	25	6.36%	0.00%
TOTAL NUMBER OF CRAFT	202	100.00%	9.04%	655	100.00%	0.00%	967	100.00%	0.00%	393	100.00%	0.00%
TOTAL PRIVATE CRAFT	189	93.56%	8.46%	612	93.44%	0.00%	769	79.52%	0.00%	280	71.25%	0.00%
TOTAL GUIDED CRAFT	4	1.98%	0.18%	38	5.80%	0.00%	135	13.96%	0.00%	63	16.03%	0.00%
TOTAL ADM CRAFT	5	2.48%	0.22%	2	0.31%	0.00%	19	1.96%	0.00%	7	1.78%	0.00%
TOTAL WAIVED CRAFT	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	3	0.31%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%
TOTAL LANDOWNER CRAFT	0	0.00%	0.00%	1	0.15%	0.00%	6	0.62%	0.00%	25	6.36%	0.00%
TOTAL LANDOWNER NON IMMEDIATE FAMILY CRAFT	4	1.98%	0.18%	2	0.31%	0.00%	35	3.62%	0.00%	18	4.58%	0.00%
TOTAL CRAFT	202	100.00%	9.04%	655	100.00%	0.00%	967	100.00%	0.00%	393	100.00%	0.00%
AVG # OF CRAFT - PRIVATE GROUP	2.30			2.99			3.85			3.22		
AVG # OF CRAFT - GUIDED GROUP	4.00			5.43			4.35			4.85		
AVG # OF CRAFT - ADMIN GROUP	2.50			1.00			3.17			2.33		
AVG # OF CRAFT - WAIVED	0.00			0.00			3.00			0.00		
AVG # OF CRAFT - LANDOWNER	0.00			1.00			2.00			2.08		
AVG # OF CRAFT - LANDOWNER NON IMMEDIATE FAMILY	2.00			2.00			7.00			9.00		
AVG # OF CRAFT/GROUP - TOTAL	2.32			3.03			3.93			3.36		

2006 SMITH RIVER USE STATISTICS BREAKDOWN BY MONTH										YEAR	
MONTH	AUG	AUG BEAKDOWN ON TOTAL % OF AUG USE	AUG % OF OVERALL TOTAL SEASON USE	SEPT	SEPT BEAKDOWN ON TOTAL % OF SEPT USE	SEPT % OF OVERALL TOTAL SEASON USE	OCT	OCT BEAKDOWN ON TOTAL % OF OCT USE	OCT % OF OVERALL TOTAL SEASON USE	TOTAL	TOTAL PERCENT
# OF FLOATERS-PRIVATE	4	100.00%	0.00%	7	100.00%	0.00%	11	100.00%	0.00%	3894	82.22%
# OF FLOATERS - GUIDED	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	638	13.47%
# OF FLOATERS - ADMIN	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	51	1.08%
# OF FLOATERS WAIVED	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	12	0.25%
# OF FLOATERS LANDOWNER	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	67	1.41%
# OF FLOATERS LANDOWNER NON IMMEDIATE FAMILY	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	74	1.56%
# OF FLOATERS - TOTAL	4	100.00%	0.00%	7	100.00%	0.00%	11	100.00%	0.00%	4736	100.00%
# OF GROUPS - PRIVATE	1	100.00%	0.00%	4	100.00%	0.00%	3	100.00%	0.00%	582	86.35%
# OF GROUPS - GUIDED	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	52	7.72%
# OF GROUPS - ADMIN	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	13	1.93%
# OF GROUPS-WAIVED	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	1	0.15%
# OF GROUPS-LANDOWNER	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	16	2.37%
# OF GROUPS-LANDOWNER NON IMMEDIATE FAMILY	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	10	1.48%
# OF GROUPS - TOTAL	1	100.00%	0.00%	4	100.00%	0.00%	3	100.00%	0.00%	674	100.00%
USER DAYS - PRIVATE	31	100.00%	0.00%	30	100.00%	0.00%	47	100.00%	0.00%	17307	82.82%
USER DAYS - GUIDED	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	3168	15.16%
USER DAYS - ADMIN	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	222	1.06%
USER DAYS - WAIVED	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	60	0.29%
USER DAYS - LANDOWNER	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	67	0.32%
USER DAYS - LANDOWNER NON IMMEDIATE FAMILY	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	74	0.35%
USER DAYS - TOTAL	31	100.00%	0.00%	30	100.00%	0.00%	47	100.00%	0.00%	20898	100.00%
USER NIGHTS - PRIVATE	26	100.00%	0.00%	27	100.00%	0.00%	32	100.00%	0.00%	13288	83.59%
USER NIGHTS - GUIDED	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	2393	15.05%
USER NIGHTS - ADMIN	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	167	1.05%
USER NIGHTS - WAIVED	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	48	0.30%
USER NIGHTS - TOTAL	26	100.00%	0.00%	27	100.00%	0.00%	32	100.00%	0.00%	15896	100.00%
AVG DAYS/GROUP - PRIVATE	7.75			4.29			4.27			4.44	
AVG DAYS/GROUP - GUIDED	0.00			0.00			0.00			4.97	
AVG DAYS/GROUP - ADM	0.00			0.00			0.00			4.35	
AVG DAYS/GROUP - TOTAL	0.00			0.00			0.00			4.59	
AVG # FLOATERS/GROUP - PRIVATE	4.00			1.75			3.67			6.69	
AVG # FLOATERS/GROUP - GUIDED	0.00			0.00			0.00			12.27	
AVG # FLOATERS/GROUP - ADM	0.00			0.00			0.00			3.92	
AVG # FLOATERS/GROUP - WAIVED	0.00			0.00			0.00			12.00	
AVG # FLOATERS/GROUP - LANDOWNER	0.00			0.00			0.00			4.19	
AVG # FLOATERS/GROUPS - LANDOWNER NON IMMEDIATE FAMILY	0.00			0.00			0.00			7.40	
AVG # FLOATERS/GROUP - TOTAL	4.00			1.75			3.67			7.03	
# OF RAFTS	0	0.00%	0.00%	1	25.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	1560	69.83%
# OF CANOES	5	100.00%	0.00%	3	75.00%	0.00%	7	87.50%	0.00%	259	11.59%
# OF DRIFT BOATS	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	119	5.33%
# OF KAYAK	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	1	12.50%	0.00%	206	9.22%
# OF OTHER TYPE CRAFT	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	90	4.03%
TOTAL NUMBER OF CRAFT	5	100.00%	0.00%	4	100.00%	0.00%	8	100.00%	0.00%	2234	100.00%
TOTAL PRIVATE CRAFT	5	100.00%	0.00%	4	100.00%	0.00%	8	100.00%	0.00%	1867	83.57%
TOTAL GUIDED CRAFT	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	240	10.74%
TOTAL ADM CRAFT	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	33	1.48%
TOTAL WAIVED CRAFT	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	3	0.13%
TOTAL LANDOWNER CRAFT	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	32	1.43%
TOTAL LANDOWNER NON IMMEDIATE FAMILY CRAFT	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	59	2.64%
TOTAL CRAFT	5	100.00%	0.00%	4	100.00%	0.00%	8	100.00%	0.00%	2234	100.00%
AVG # OF CRAFT - PRIVATE GROUP	5.00			1.00			2.67			3.21	
AVG # OF CRAFT - GUIDED GROUP	0.00			0.00			0.00			4.62	
AVG # OF CRAFT - ADMIN GROUP	0.00			0.00			0.00			2.54	
AVG # OF CRAFT - WAIVED	0.00			0.00			0.00			3.00	
AVG # OF CRAFT - LANDOWNER	0.00			0.00			0.00			2.00	
AVG # OF CRAFT - LANDOWNER NON IMMEDIATE FAMILY	0.00			0.00			0.00			5.90	
AVG # OF CRAFT/GROUP - TOTAL	5.00			1.00			2.67			3.31	

SMITH RIVER TREND STATISTICS (1993-2006)

YEAR	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	AVERAGE
# OF FLOATERS-PRIVATE	3,172	2,689	3,534	3,757	4,149	3,507	3,396	1,878	1,678	2,798	3,065	3,187	3,197	3,894	3,136
# OF FLOATERS - GUIDED	432	459	520	652	622	621	669	602	505	626	452	517	573	638	563
# OF FLOATERS - ADMIN	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	55	49	32	59	85	48	37	51	52
# OF FLOATERS WAIVED	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	21	0	0	0	0	0	12	5
# OF FLOATERS LANDOWNER	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	17	21	12	42	40	47	67	35
# OF FLOATERS LANDOWNER NON IMMEDIATE FAMILY	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	29	26	46	70	63	87	74	56
# OF FLOATERS - TOTAL	3,604	3,148	4,054	4,409	4,771	4,128	4,120	2,596	2,262	3,541	3,714	3,855	3,941	4,736	3,777
# OF GROUPS - PRIVATE	664	481	665	632	689	585	511	340	291	450	450	503	526	582	526
# OF GROUPS - GUIDED	49	45	54	57	54	53	56	49	42	48	37	46	48	52	49
# OF GROUPS - ADMIN	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	17	13	13	20	18	16	12	13	15
# OF GROUPS-WAIVED	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
# OF GROUPS-LANDOWNER	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	3	4	3	11	12	14	16	9
# OF GROUPS-LANDOWNER NON IMMEDIATE FAMILY	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	5	5	9	12	10	18	10	10
# OF GROUPS - TOTAL	713	526	719	689	743	638	584	412	355	530	528	587	618	674	594
USER DAYS - PRIVATE	12,656	10,925	14,644	15,712	18,334	14,848	14,230	8,096	7,657	12,340	13,673	13,867	14,278	17,307	13,469
USER DAYS - GUIDED	1,940	2,325	2,561	3,274	3,080	3,026	3,418	2,984	2,490	3,129	2,205	2,429	2,860	3,168	2,778
USER DAYS - ADMIN	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	238	228	127	195	377	215	157	222	220
USER DAYS - WAIVED	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	96	0	0	0	0	0	60	22
USER DAYS - LANDOWNER	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	17	21	12	42	40	47	67	35
USER DAYS - LANDOWNER NON IMMEDIATE FAMILY	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	29	26	46	70	63	87	74	56
USER DAYS - TOTAL	14,596	13,250	17,205	18,986	21,414	17,874	17,886	11,450	10,321	15,722	16,367	16,614	17,429	20,898	16,429
USER NIGHTS - PRIVATE	9,540	8,365	10,015	11,749	14,036	11,088	10,968	6,191	5,995	10,141	10,636	10,502	11,078	13,288	10,257
USER NIGHTS - GUIDED	1,504	1,866	1,991	2,576	2,299	2,358	2,715	2,328	1,960	2,256	1,777	1,796	2,432	2,393	2,161
USER NIGHTS - ADMIN	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	165	179	97	178	298	176	121	167	173
USER NIGHTS - WAIVED	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	63	0	0	0	0	0	48	16
USER NIGHTS - TOTAL	11,044	10,231	12,006	14,325	16,335	13,446	13,848	8,761	8,052	12,575	12,711	12,474	13,631	15,896	12,524
AVG DAYS/GROUP - PRIVATE	3.99	4.06	4.14	4.18	4.42	4.23	4.19	4.31	4.56	4.41	4.46	4.35	4.47	4.44	4.30
AVG DAYS/GROUP - GUIDED	4.49	5.07	4.93	5.02	4.95	4.87	5.11	4.96	4.93	5.00	4.88	4.70	4.99	4.97	4.92
AVG DAYS/GROUP - ADM	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	4.33	4.65	3.97	3.31	4.44	4.48	4.24	4.35	4.22
AVG DAYS/GROUP - TOTAL	4.00	4.20	4.20	4.30	4.50	4.30	4.54	4.64	4.49	4.24	4.59	4.51	4.57	4.59	4.40
AVG # FLOATERS/GROUP - PRIVATE	4.78	5.59	5.31	5.94	6.02	5.99	6.65	5.52	5.77	6.22	6.81	6.34	6.08	6.69	5.98
AVG # FLOATERS/GROUP - GUIDED	8.82	10.20	9.63	11.44	11.52	11.72	11.95	12.29	12.02	13.04	12.22	11.24	11.94	12.27	11.45
AVG # FLOATERS/GROUP - ADM	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	3.24	3.77	2.46	2.95	4.72	3.00	3.08	3.92	3.39
AVG # FLOATERS/GROUP - WAIVED	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	10.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.00	3.21
AVG # FLOATERS/GROUP - LANDOWNER	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	5.67	5.25	4.00	3.82	3.33	3.36	4.19	4.23
AVG # FLOATERS/GROUPS - LANDOWNER NON IMMEDIATE FAMILY	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	5.80	5.20	5.11	5.83	6.30	4.83	7.40	5.78
AVG # FLOATERS/GROUP - TOTAL	5.05	5.98	5.64	6.40	6.42	6.47	7.05	6.30	6.37	6.68	7.03	6.57	6.38	7.03	6.38

SMITH RIVER TREND STATISTICS CONTINUED (1993-2006)

YEAR	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	AVERAGE
# OF RAFTS	774	863	1114	1232	1409	1294	1294	882	759	1101	1245	1237	1311	1560	1,148
# OF CANOES	438	353	415	362	433	379	344	224	244	378	276	284	235	259	330
# OF DRIFT BOATS	100	82	140	132	147	97	74	44	37	63	96	86	113	119	95
# OF KAYAKS	61	46	105	88	96	141	99	67	56	151	133	157	133	206	110
# OF OTHER TYPE CRAFT	12	30	24	49	60	8	13	14	24	55	23	56	44	90	36
TOTAL NUMBER OF CRAFT	1385	1374	1798	1863	2145	1919	1824	1231	1120	1748	1773	1820	1836	2234	1,719
TOTAL PRIVATE CRAFT	1156	1173	1548	1579	1845	1604	1490	906	837	1368	1452	1503	1494	1867	1,416
TOTAL GUIDED CRAFT	187	171	208	256	278	265	308	269	241	293	209	218	253	240	243
TOTAL ADM CRAFT	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	26	28	20	42	45	28	20	33	30
TOTAL WAIVED CRAFT	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	9	0	0	0	0	0	3	2
TOTAL LANDOWNER CRAFT	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	6	10	6	20	19	20	32	16
TOTAL LANDOWNER NON IMMEDIATE FAMILY CRAFT	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	13	12	39	47	52	49	59	39
AVG # OF CRAFT/PRIVATE GROUP	1.74	2.44	2.33	2.50	2.68	2.74	2.92	2.66	2.88	3.04	3.23	2.99	2.84	3.21	2.73
AVG # OF CRAFT/GUIDED GROUP	3.82	3.80	3.85	4.49	5.15	5.00	5.50	5.49	5.74	6.10	5.65	4.74	5.27	4.62	4.94
AVG # OF CRAFT/ADMIN GROUP	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	1.53	2.15	1.54	2.10	2.50	1.75	1.67	2.54	1.97
AVG # OF CRAFT/WAIVED	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	4.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.00	1.07
AVG # OF CRAFT/LANDOWNER	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	2.00	2.50	2.00	1.82	1.58	1.43	2.00	1.90
AVG # OF CRAFT/LANDOWNER NON IMMEDIATE FAMILY	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	2.60	2.40	4.33	3.92	5.20	2.72	5.90	3.87
AVG # OF CRAFT/GROUP - TOTAL	1.94	2.61	2.50	2.70	2.89	3.01	3.12	2.99	3.15	3.30	3.36	3.10	2.97	3.31	2.93
OUTFITTED % OF TOTAL GROUPS	6.87%	8.56%	7.51%	8.27%	7.27%	8.31%	9.59%	11.89%	11.83%	9.06%	7.01%	7.84%	7.77%	7.72%	8.53%
OUTFITTED % OF TOTAL FLOATERS	11.99%	14.58%	12.83%	14.79%	13.04%	15.04%	16.24%	23.19%	22.33%	17.68%	12.17%	13.41%	14.54%	13.47%	15.38%
HIGH WATER FLOW LEVEL IN CFS	555	656	454	676	3760	1480	564	533	447	1080	938	1650	1650	1290	1,124
LOW WATER FLOW LEVEL IN CFS	102	53	64	64	226	115	75	29	34	63	43	79	100	60	79

SMITH RIVER DAILY LOG (2006)				
2006	CFS	TOTAL NUMBER OF GROUPS ON THE RIVER EACH DAY	TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE ON THE RIVER EACH DAY	AVERAGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE PER GROUP ON THE RIVER EACH DAY
1-Apr	191	0	0	0.00
2-Apr	192	0	0	0.00
3-Apr	172	0	0	0.00
4-Apr	180	0	0	0.00
5-Apr	198	0	0	0.00
6-Apr	406	0	0	0.00
7-Apr	599	0	0	0.00
8-Apr	515	0	0	0.00
9-Apr	576	0	0	0.00
10-Apr	535	1	3	3.00
11-Apr	467	2	6	3.00
12-Apr	423	5	17	3.40
13-Apr	456	11	43	3.91
14-Apr	475	17	70	4.12
15-Apr	533	22	96	4.36
16-Apr	602	24	103	4.29
17-Apr	680	19	88	4.63
18-Apr	590	20	75	3.75
19-Apr	516	17	66	3.88
20-Apr	471	16	76	4.75
21-Apr	467	18	108	6.00
22-Apr	514	17	105	6.18
23-Apr	597	19	120	6.32
24-Apr	573	15	80	5.33
25-Apr	544	15	69	4.60
26-Apr	517	16	76	4.75
27-Apr	490	21	116	5.52
28-Apr	470	26	137	5.27
29-Apr	500	24	119	4.96
30-Apr	584	26	129	4.96
1-May	640	22	98	4.45
2-May	648	16	69	4.31
3-May	597	20	106	5.30
4-May	543	22	124	5.64
5-May	500	20	125	6.25
6-May	491	24	156	6.50
7-May	515	28	171	6.11
8-May	511	24	140	5.83
9-May	497	27	142	5.26
10-May	465	29	146	5.03
11-May	443	34	179	5.26
12-May	448	34	180	5.29
13-May	474	30	188	6.27
14-May	503	31	202	6.52

SMITH RIVER DAILY LOG (2006)				
2006	CFS	TOTAL NUMBER OF GROUPS ON THE RIVER EACH DAY	TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE ON THE RIVER EACH DAY	AVERAGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE PER GROUP ON THE RIVER EACH DAY
15-May	552	28	207	7.39
16-May	609	27	181	6.70
17-May	615	29	182	6.28
18-May	658	34	221	6.50
19-May	716	35	243	6.94
20-May	743	36	260	7.22
21-May	764	34	244	7.18
22-May	734	31	218	7.03
23-May	676	33	240	7.27
24-May	628	31	209	6.74
25-May	568	37	258	6.97
26-May	533	38	297	7.82
27-May	657	35	287	8.20
28-May	752	33	251	7.61
29-May	656	30	233	7.77
30-May	578	25	176	7.04
31-May	476	25	195	7.80
1-Jun	413	30	232	7.73
2-Jun	381	31	250	8.06
3-Jun	362	39	326	8.36
4-Jun	377	41	372	9.07
5-Jun	412	38	367	9.66
6-Jun	404	35	318	9.09
7-Jun	395	39	303	7.77
8-Jun	469	39	305	7.82
9-Jun	546	37	285	7.70
10-Jun	1120	29	230	7.93
11-Jun	1,290	28	247	8.82
12-Jun	1,060	28	265	9.46
13-Jun	934	27	232	8.59
14-Jun	860	31	283	9.13
15-Jun	833	34	312	9.18
16-Jun	790	35	306	8.74
17-Jun	691	35	295	8.43
18-Jun	612	35	325	9.29
19-Jun	544	34	308	9.06
20-Jun	498	34	296	8.71
21-Jun	431	37	320	8.65
22-Jun	378	37	342	9.24
23-Jun	348	36	326	9.06
24-Jun	314	34	333	9.79
25-Jun	292	35	309	8.83
26-Jun	266	36	286	7.94
27-Jun	233	38	297	7.82

SMITH RIVER DAILY LOG (2006)				
2006	CFS	TOTAL NUMBER OF GROUPS ON THE RIVER EACH DAY	TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE ON THE RIVER EACH DAY	AVERAGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE PER GROUP ON THE RIVER EACH DAY
28-Jun	224	39	331	8.49
29-Jun	207	39	326	8.36
30-Jun	219	39	318	8.15
1-Jul	212	36	309	8.58
2-Jul	210	34	280	8.24
3-Jul	210	30	246	8.20
4-Jul	225	29	241	8.31
5-Jul	213	28	229	8.18
6-Jul	214	31	253	8.16
7-Jul	219	31	254	8.19
8-Jul	204	29	241	8.31
9-Jul	186	28	226	8.07
10-Jul	177	28	227	8.11
11-Jul	182	22	170	7.73
12-Jul	192	22	151	6.86
13-Jul	195	23	153	6.65
14-Jul	184	24	146	6.08
15-Jul	162	20	122	6.10
16-Jul	149	21	125	5.95
17-Jul	135	16	94	5.88
18-Jul	123	16	99	6.19
19-Jul	119	12	76	6.33
20-Jul	126	11	69	6.27
21-Jul	122	15	76	5.07
22-Jul	115	13	58	4.46
23-Jul	110	13	51	3.92
24-Jul	109	10	38	3.80
25-Jul	101	5	18	3.60
26-Jul	95	3	8	2.67
27-Jul	88	1	2	2.00
28-Jul	85	1	2	2.00
29-Jul	84	0	0	0.00
30-Jul	86	1	5	5.00
31-Jul	88	1	5	5.00
1-Aug	88	1	5	5.00
2-Aug	92	1	5	5.00
3-Aug	88	1	5	5.00
4-Aug	87	0	0	0.00
5-Aug	81	0	0	0.00
6-Aug	79	0	0	0.00
7-Aug	77	0	0	0.00
8-Aug	78	0	0	0.00
9-Aug	78	0	0	0.00
10-Aug	75	0	0	0.00

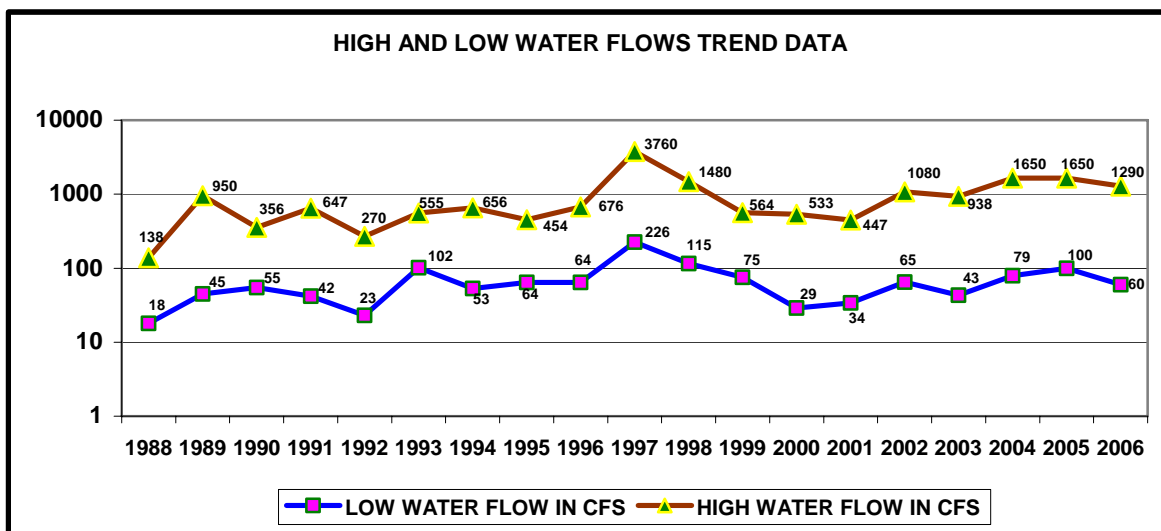
SMITH RIVER DAILY LOG (2006)				
2006	CFS	TOTAL NUMBER OF GROUPS ON THE RIVER EACH DAY	TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE ON THE RIVER EACH DAY	AVERAGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE PER GROUP ON THE RIVER EACH DAY
11-Aug	72	0	0	0.00
12-Aug	68	0	0	0.00
13-Aug	73	0	0	0.00
14-Aug	77	0	0	0.00
15-Aug	73	0	0	0.00
16-Aug	70	0	0	0.00
17-Aug	79	0	0	0.00
18-Aug	93	0	0	0.00
19-Aug	81	0	0	0.00
20-Aug	75	0	0	0.00
21-Aug	74	0	0	0.00
22-Aug	71	0	0	0.00
23-Aug	68	0	0	0.00
24-Aug	69	0	0	0.00
25-Aug	70	1	4	4.00
26-Aug	67	1	4	4.00
27-Aug	69	1	4	4.00
28-Aug	64	1	4	4.00
29-Aug	60	0	0	0.00
30-Aug	63	0	0	0.00
31-Aug	78	0	0	0.00
1-Sep	83	0	0	0.00
2-Sep	86	1	1	1.00
3-Sep	82	1	1	1.00
4-Sep	78	0	0	0.00
5-Sep	78	0	0	0.00
6-Sep	78	0	0	0.00
7-Sep	76	0	0	0.00
8-Sep	75	0	0	0.00
9-Sep	77	0	0	0.00
10-Sep	73	0	0	0.00
11-Sep	70	0	0	0.00
12-Sep	78	0	0	0.00
13-Sep	78	0	0	0.00
14-Sep	77	0	0	0.00
15-Sep	83	0	0	0.00
16-Sep	97	0	0	0.00
17-Sep	112	0	0	0.00
18-Sep	112	0	0	0.00
19-Sep	109	0	0	0.00
20-Sep	103	0	0	0.00
21-Sep	105	0	0	0.00
22-Sep	121	0	0	0.00
23-Sep	126	0	0	0.00
24-Sep	115	1	2	2.00

SMITH RIVER DAILY LOG (2006)				
2006	CFS	TOTAL NUMBER OF GROUPS ON THE RIVER EACH DAY	TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE ON THE RIVER EACH DAY	AVERAGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE PER GROUP ON THE RIVER EACH DAY
25-Sep	107	2	4	2.00
26-Sep	106	2	4	2.00
27-Sep	104	2	4	2.00
28-Sep	103	2	4	2.00
29-Sep	103	3	6	2.00
30-Sep	101	2	4	2.00
1-Oct	99	2	4	2.00
2-Oct	98	1	2	2.00
3-Oct	101	1	2	2.00
4-Oct	106	0	0	0.00
5-Oct	106	0	0	0.00
6-Oct	115	0	0	0.00
7-Oct	150	0	0	0.00
8-Oct	182	0	0	0.00
9-Oct	malfunction	0	0	0.00
10-Oct	malfunction	0	0	0.00
11-Oct	malfunction	0	0	0.00
12-Oct	malfunction	1	4	4.00
13-Oct	malfunction	2	10	5.00
14-Oct	malfunction	2	10	5.00
15-Oct	malfunction	1	6	6.00
16-Oct	malfunction	1	6	6.00
17-Oct	141	1	1	1.00
18-Oct	134	1	1	1.00
19-Oct	136	1	1	1.00
20-Oct	155	0	0	0.00
21-Oct	166	0	0	0.00
22-Oct	152	0	0	0.00
23-Oct	142	0	0	0.00
24-Oct	141	0	0	0.00
25-Oct	140	0	0	0.00
26-Oct	134	0	0	0.00
27-Oct	134	0	0	0.00
28-Oct	130	0	0	0.00
29-Oct	128	0	0	0.00
30-Oct	Ice Affected	0	0	0.00
31-Oct	Ice Affected	0	0	0.00

SECTION 6 – RESOURCE AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

River Flows

The Smith River flows rely heavily on mountain snow pack and rainfall for seasonal floating opportunities. The stream flows are measured in cubic feet per second (cfs) at a USGS stream-measuring gauge approximately two miles below Camp Baker. FWP recommends at least 150 cfs for canoes/kayaks, 250 cfs for rafts and 350 cfs for drift boats and large catarafts. Most of the floating that occurred in 2006 started in late April and ended in late-July. The lowest measured stream flow for the 2006 season was 60 cfs, (August 29), while the peak stream flow was 1290 cfs (June 11).



GRAPH 14: HISTORICAL RIVER FLOW TRENDS

The Smith River USGS gauge may be found on the internet at:

<http://waterdata.usgs.gov/mt/nwis/uv?06077200>



DEWATERING AT EDEN BRIDGE -DROUGHT YEAR OF 2000

Resource Impacts

Physical resource impacts along the Smith River corridor can impair the ecological integrity of the area as well as the visitor experience. The following physical resource impacts are of particular concern:

- Loss of vegetative cover (bare ground)
- Erosion
- Campfire impacts
- Improper disposal of human waste
- Green tree cutting and damage
- Habituated or food-conditioned wildlife
- Littering
- Dogs off leash (waste, harassing wildlife, etc.)



MEASURING RESOURCE IMPACTS IN BOAT CAMP

Noxious Weed Control

FWP and the USFS work cooperatively to control noxious weeds within the Smith River Corridor. Leafy spurge is the most common noxious weed along the river corridor. Smith River weed control activities continued in 2006 with an emphasis on the established educational and chemical spraying programs. Bio-control (flea beetles) was not conducted in 2006. Educational weed information was posted on a newly installed

“Information Board” adjacent to the floater registration kiosk. Smith River weed control activities and education continued to be included in the river ranger’s pre-launch talks.

Late summer of 2005, FWP entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Meagher and Cascade County Weed Districts, USDA Forest Service and the Smith River Habitat Project Inc. for cooperative management of noxious weeds throughout the Smith River Corridor.

In 2006, weed control activities included a USFS crew conducting a five-day float to spray for leafy spurge and other noxious weeds during the month of July. The goal for chemical spraying along the river is to keep the leafy spurge controlled and from spreading up the mountainsides and leaving the rim of the canyon.

Controlling noxious weeds along the Smith River Corridor is very difficult due to access. The only practical way to reach most areas of publicly owned land for spraying or bio-release is to float. It takes at least 4-5 days to float the river and treat weeds along the way. Each trip is very costly and requires considerable coordination and staffing efforts to complete. Approximately 80% of the property along the river is privately owned with the other 20% being public. Leafy spurge is very difficult to control along a water route especially when there are 111 different private and public landowners with river front property.

Management Plan Use Indicators

The current management plan for the Smith River program was developed in 1995 and adopted in 1996. The plan defines three management indicators, with standards to address social impacts to aid in gauging the quality of the river experience for the recreation user.

- #1 – The indicator is the ***number of groups in the canyon at one time*** and the standard is to have no more than three days per float season with 45 or more groups in the canyon at one time.
- #2 – The indicator is the ***number of floaters in the canyon at one time*** and the standard is no more than six days with more than 300 floaters in the canyon at one time.
- #3 – The indicator is ***average group size*** and the standard is to have no higher average than eight persons per group per month period.

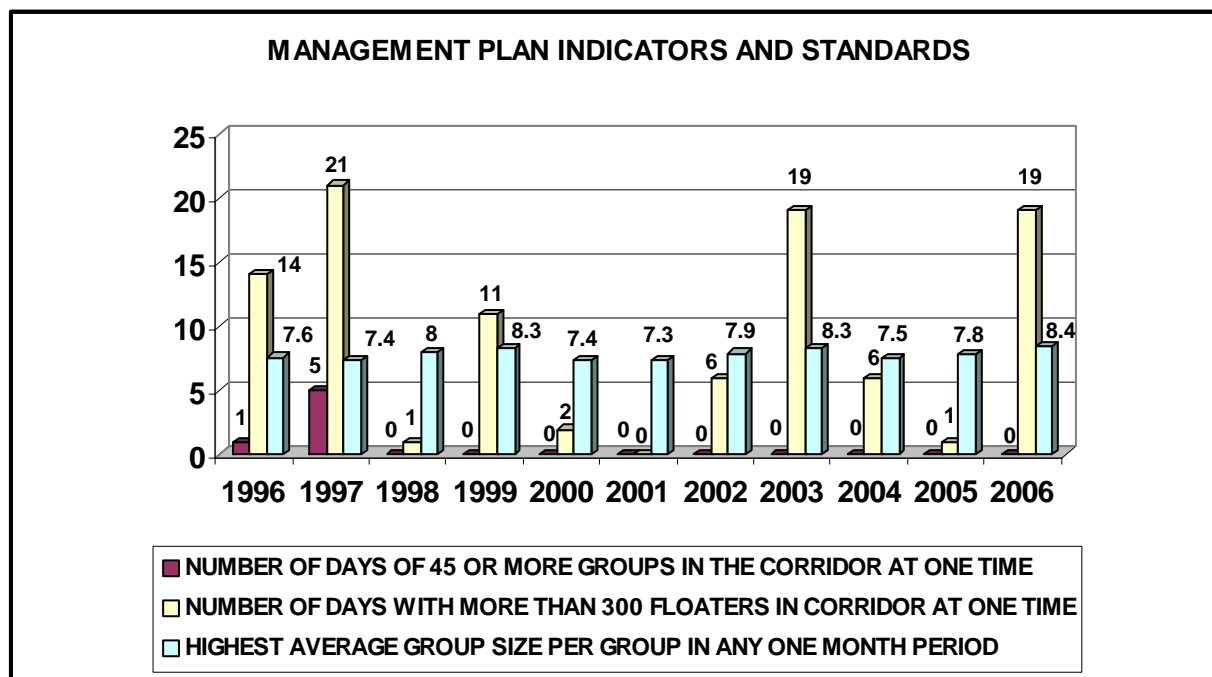
In 2006, the standards for two of the three indicators were exceeded, or out of compliance (graph 14, page 37). There were 19 days during which there were 300 or more floaters in the canyon at a given time (standard is no more than 6 days over 300). In addition, the average group size during the month of June was 8.4 (standard is no higher average than 8 during a given month). The standard for the number of groups in the canyon at one time was in compliance, with zero days with 45 or more groups in the canyon at a given time.

The 1996 Smith River Management Plan mandates that when a standard for the indicators is out of compliance, FWP will study the levels and patterns of the river's use further and prepare a recommendation to the FWP Commission.

This recommendation may include reducing the number of launches per day or the maximum group size. Any recommended change would likely affect the number and group size for both private and outfitted groups, while recognizing the historic percentages between these two types of users. The goal has been to return the floater use numbers back within the current standards and indicators.

In 1998, the cancellation procedure was modified due to management plan standards and indicators having been exceeded, requiring FWP to make modifications to the permit system procedures. As a result, the change adopted by the FWP Commission was to not refill the first five canceled permits (private or commercial) each week between June 10th and July 10th. This time period reflected the most popular period to float and the period when the management plan indicators were being exceeded. Outside the high use period of June 10th to July 10th, the cancellation policy remained the same, allowing all canceled permits to be refilled.

In 2003, to help keep overall use numbers within the management plan standards, the maximum group size was limited to 8 people per group for permits that were canceled and reissued from May 25th - July 10th.



GRAPH 14: MANAGEMENT PLAN INDICATORS & STANDARDS (1996-2006 TRENDS)

Compliance

FWP staff has the authority to enforce recreational use and resource protection regulations throughout the Smith River Corridor.

River Rangers typically take an 'educational approach' to minor violations, seeking the lowest level of enforcement action necessary to gain compliance with established rules and regulations on the river. However, River Rangers have the authority and discretion to issue citations when necessary and appropriate. Enforcement actions range from verbal warnings to written warnings to Notice To Appear (NTA) in Court.

Incident Summary

No serious accidents, injuries, or fatalities occurred on the river corridor in 2006. The following incidents of significance were documented (listed alphabetically):

Incidents investigated and reported by FWP staff:

- **Control of Animals - Dog Off Leash:** Dog off leash at Camp Baker. A written warning was issued.
- **Control of Animals - Dog Off Leash:** Dog off leash at Camp Baker. Dog owner issued a Notice To Appear (NTA).
- **Disorderly Conduct - Public Urination:** Shuttle driver urinated in the parking area. A written warning was issued.
- **Disorderly Conduct - Public Urination:** Visitor urinated beside the Camp Baker wood shed. A Notice To Appear (NTA) was issued.
- **Medical - Dog Bite:** Visitor sustained a bite to their leg (thigh) attempting to break up a dog fight while on the river.
- **Medical - Dog Bite:** Visitor received a bite to the hand while attempting to break up a dog fight at Camp Baker. She received medical treatment in White Sulphur Springs.
- **Property Damage – Black Bear encounter:** A tent containing a sleeping man and dog was attacked and destroyed by a black bear. There were no injuries.
- **Property Disturbance – Tree Cutting:** Visitors cut down a tree at Lower Trout Creek Boat Camp. A Notice To Appear (NTA) was issued to the permit holder.

- **Search and Rescue:** A spouse reported her husband and son were overdue coming off the river. Meagher County initiated a search hiring the services of a private helicopter. The two individuals were found unharmed a few miles above Eden Bridge.

Incidents recorded by floaters onto Floater Logs:

- **Disorderly Conduct – Quiet Hours:** Loud, boisterous group in Lower Givens Gulch Boat Camp disturbed group in Upper Rattlesnake Boat Camp after 10:00 pm.
- **Firearms – Unlawful Discharge:** Group in Lower Givens Gulch Boat Camp reportedly fired 50-60 rounds from a pistol. Reported by two separate groups. Reported incident is under investigation.
- **Littering:** Numerous recordings of litter found within boat camps, in fire rings and pit latrines.
- **Vandalism – Cultural Resource:** Two separate floating groups reported discovering graffiti in the Indian Pictograph Cave. Reported vandalism is under investigation.
- **Vicious Animal:** Dog swam into river and attacked a group in a canoe. Canoeists fought off the dog with the paddles.
- **Other Reported Incidents:** Other incidents reported onto floater logs included improper disposal of waste (dog and human), dogs off leash and fishing violations.



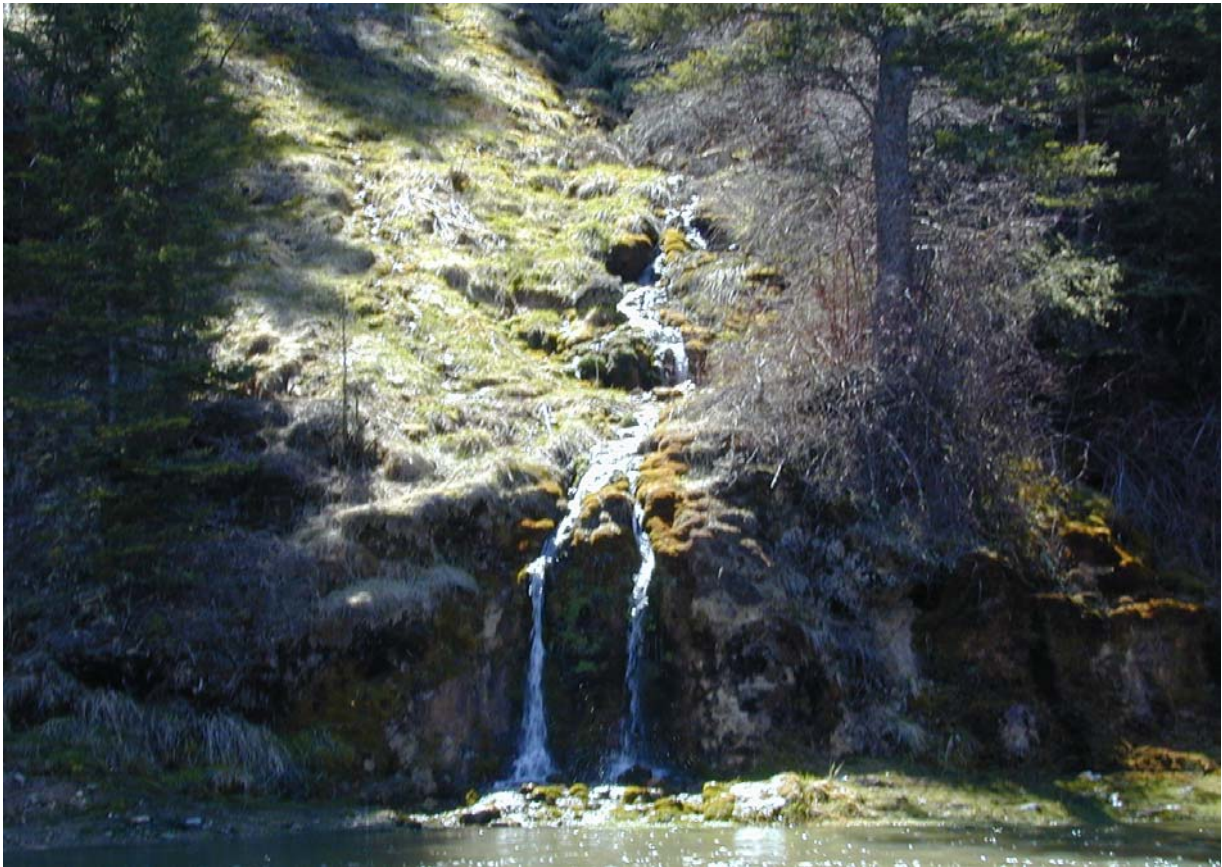
SPRING SNOWSTORM AT COW COULEE BOAT CAMP

References

The following reference materials and documents regarding the Smith River are on file at the Region 4 FWP Headquarters in Great Falls, Montana, and/or available on the FWP (Smith River State Park) website:

www.fwp.mt.gov/parks/recreation/smithriver/default.html

- Smith River Management Plan (January 1996)
- Smith River Special Use Area Rule (January 2004)
- Parks Biennial Fee Rule (January 2004)



VIEW OF INDIAN SPRINGS

*Great trip, great scenery!
Hope to be back next year!*

QUOTES FROM THE 2006 FLOATER LOG